



SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Story & Art by

Masashi Kishimoto **volume**

1



岸本 斉史

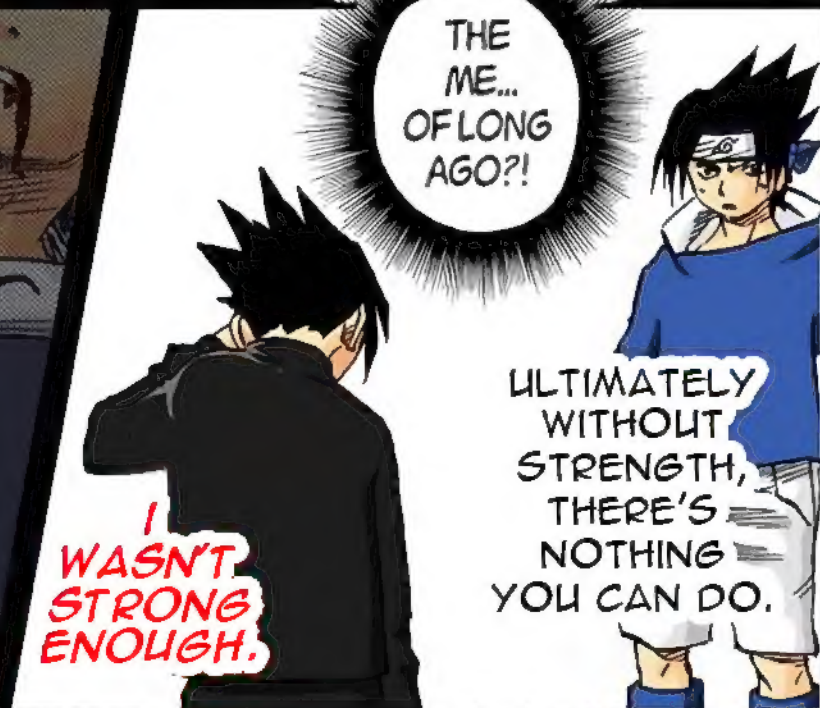
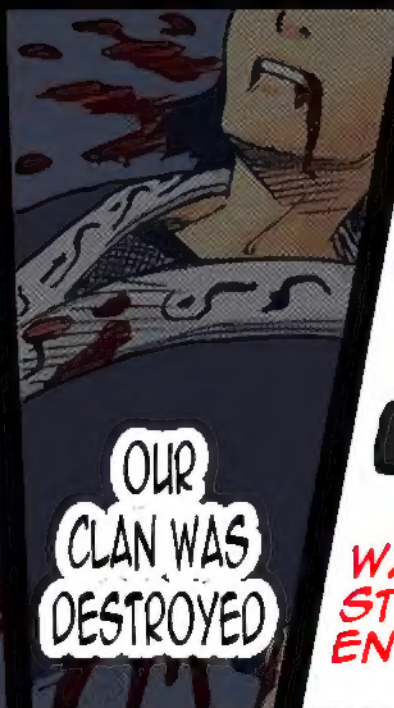
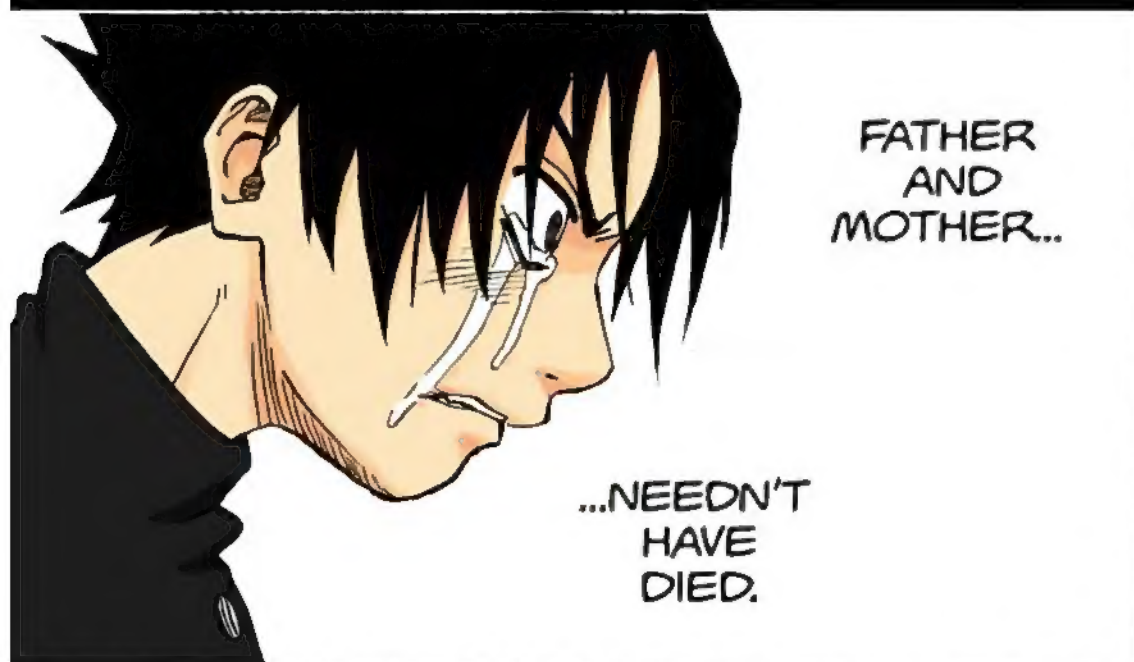
This volume of *Naruto* is apparently the first to be created entirely digitally. My guess is that, in the future, manga production will continue to move further and further into this kind of production and away from the more traditional methods.

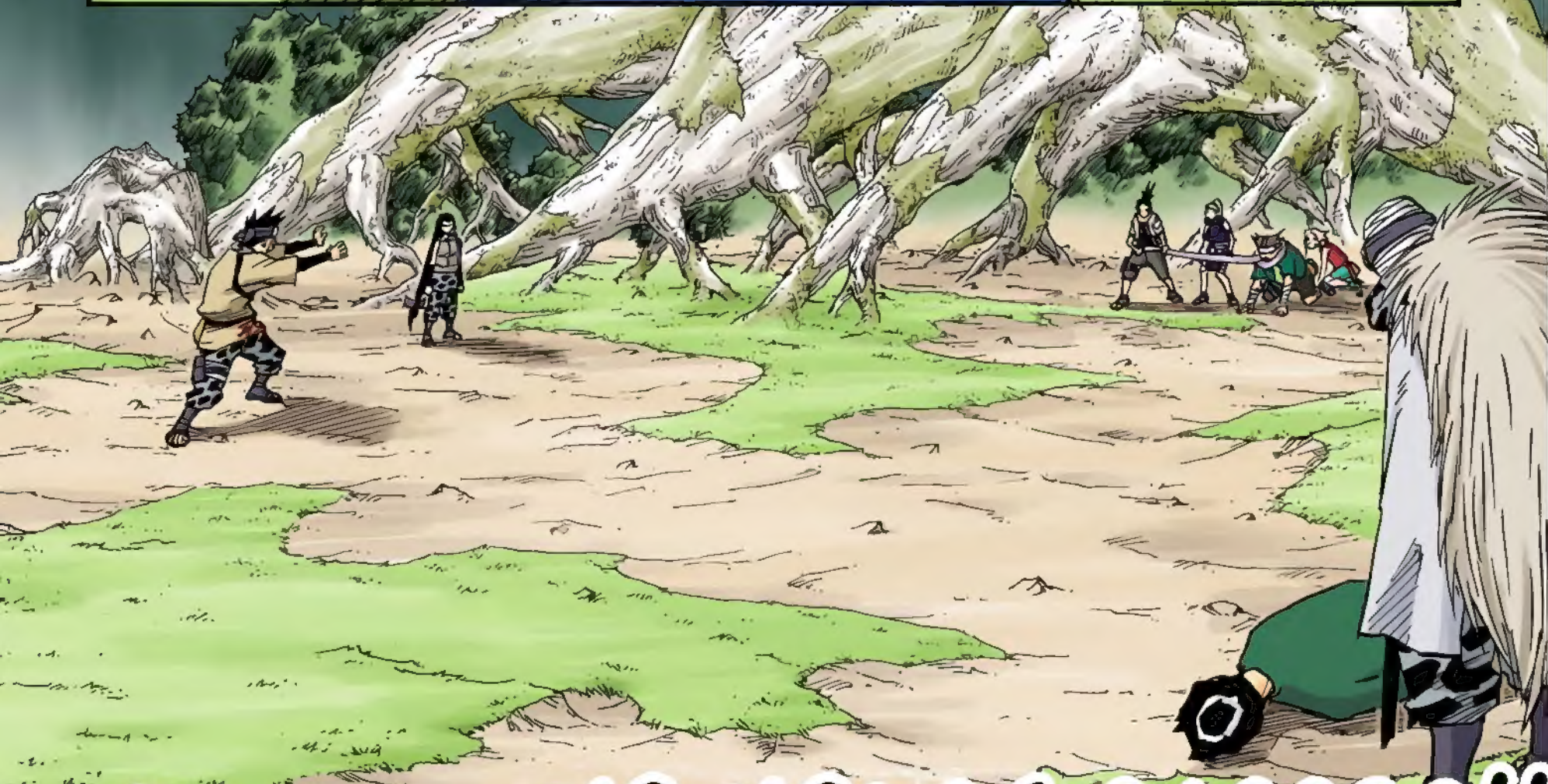
Both the backgrounds and the characters themselves are created in software as polygons, and once the initial design and programming is done, any imaginable composition is possible. For action sequences, we use motion capture to create and manipulate the coolest poses we can come up with. It's all done on the computer, without using any paper or ink. Our methods will probably continue to change as the technology evolves... but there's one thing that won't ever change: the need to invent good stories!

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2001

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** ("Mechanism"). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.







55 : NO HOLDS BARRED!!



MORE OF THESE
ANNOYING
LITTLE BUGS
FROM KONOHA
VILLAGE HAVE
CREPT IN...
AND STARTED
SWARMING.

...AND
HOG ALL
THE GLORY
IN FRONT
OF
SASUKE?!

DID YOU
THINK I WAS
GOING TO
LET YOU
MAKE THE BIG
SACRIFICE...



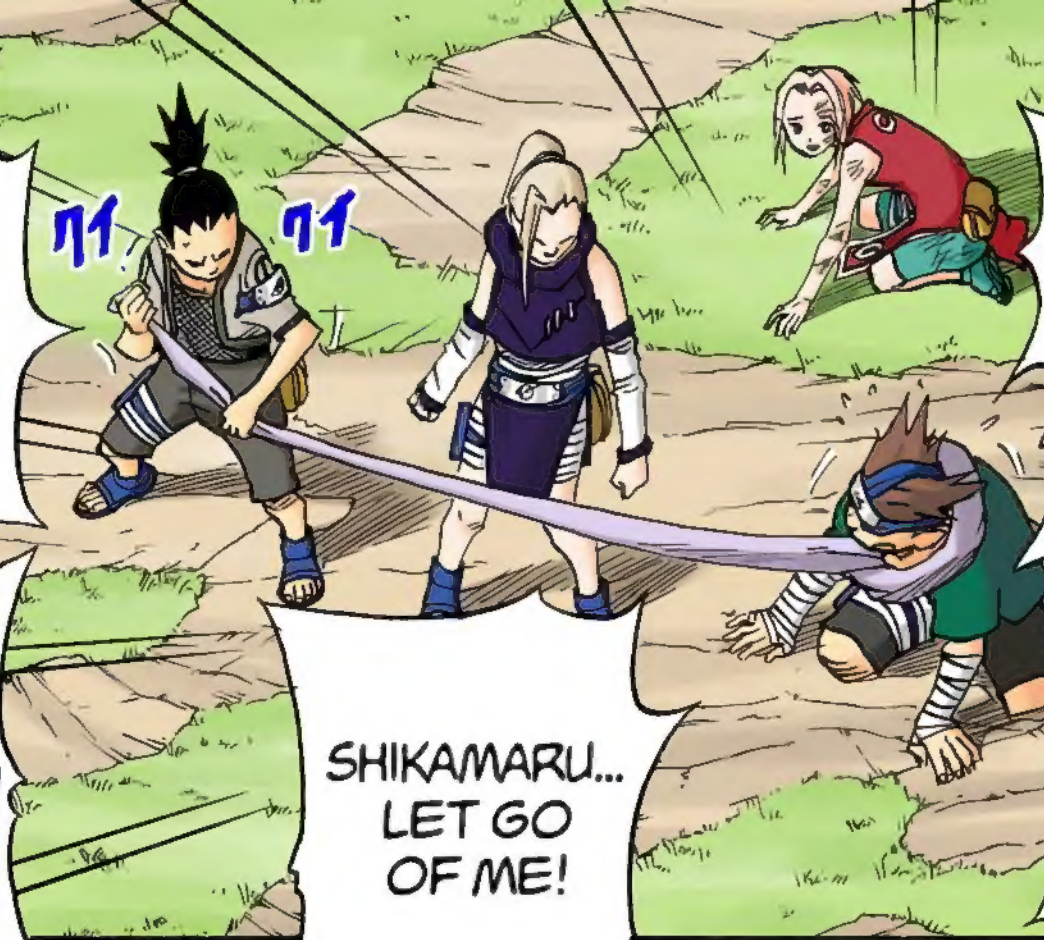
INO...

WHY...?

NOPE!
NO WAY.
SORRY, BUDDY,
BUT THAT'S
THE WAY IT IS!

WE'RE THE
MEN HERE!
WE CAN'T RUN
AWAY WHEN INO'S
READY TO RISK
HER LIFE FIGHTING!
NOT EVEN IF
WE DIE!!

!! !!



WH-WHAT
ARE
YOU GUYS
THINKING?!

THOSE
CREEPS
ARE TOO
DANGEROUS!
THEY'LL EAT
US ALIVE!!

SHIKAMARU...
LET GO
OF ME!

...FATTY.

HEH HEH...
WE'LL LET
YOU OFF
THE HOOK
IF YOU
WANT TO
RUN...

WHAT'S
MEANT
TO
HAPPEN
WILL,
I GUESS!

SORRY I
DRAGGED
YOU BOYS
INTO
THIS!!

BUT WE
ARE A
THREE-MAN
CELL...
ALL FOR ONE
AND ONE
FOR ALL.

I...
COULD'VE
SWORN
HE
CALLED
ME...

WHAT
DID
THAT
GUY JUST
SAY?



...FATSO!!

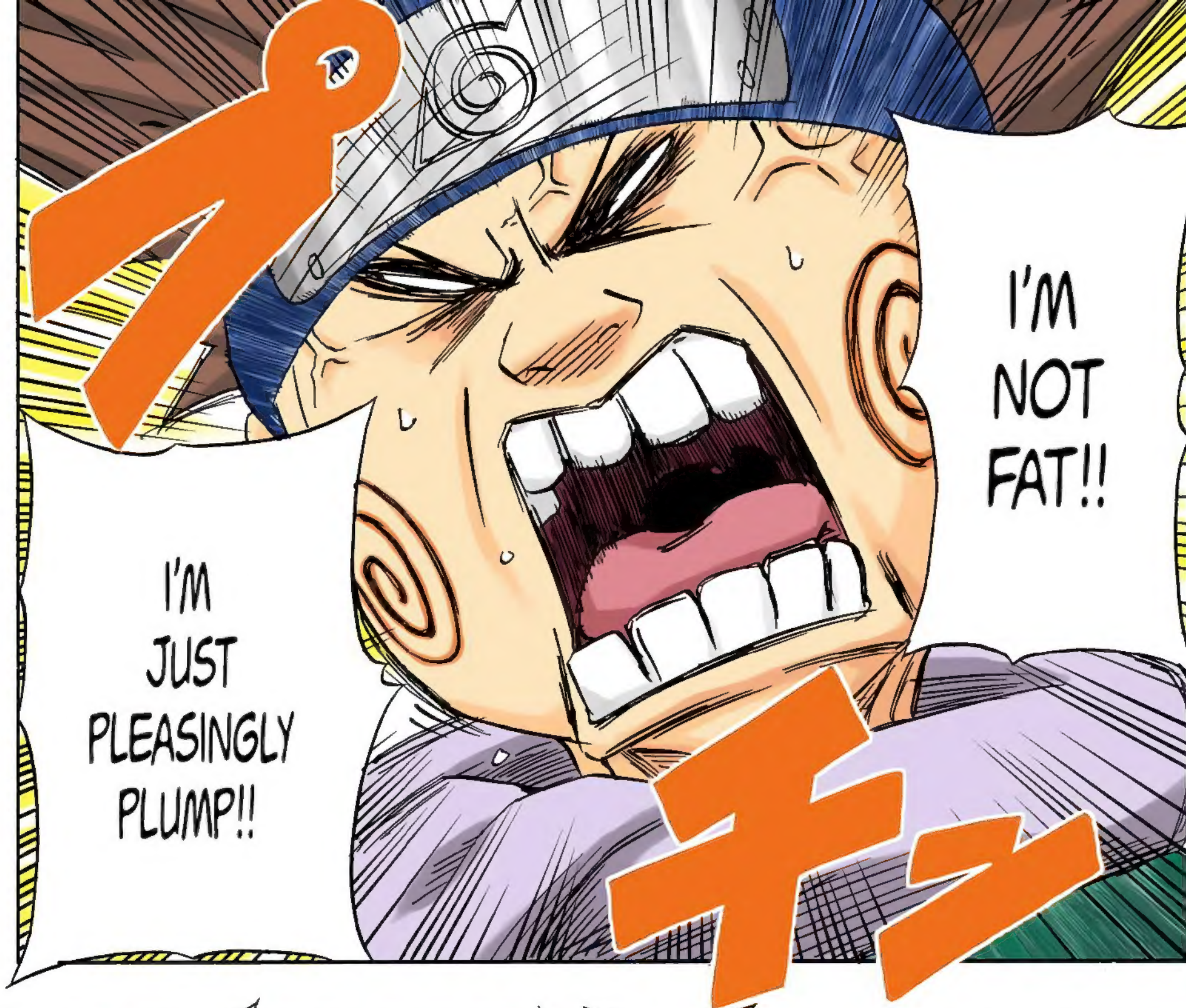
YOU'RE
WELCOME
TO RUN AWAY...
IF YOU CAN
FIND A
HIDING PLACE
THAT'S BIG
ENOUGH...

THAT
WORD'S
A BIG
NO-NO
WITH
CHOJI...

IF THIS
GUY
SAYS IT
AGAIN...!

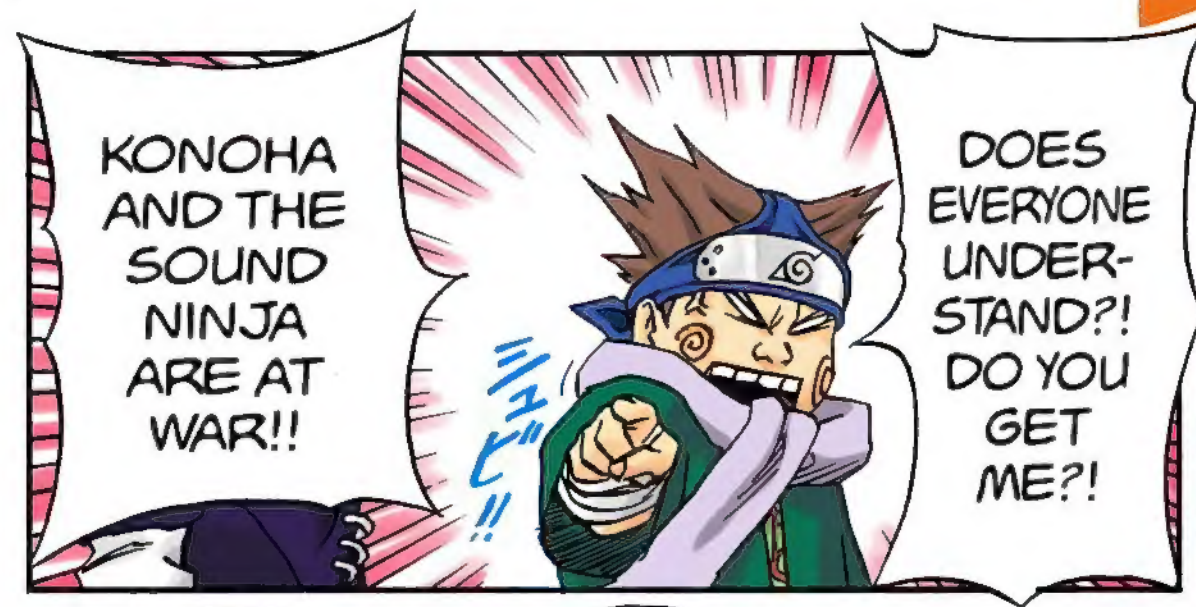
EH?!





I'M
NOT
FAT!!

I'M
JUST
PLEASINGLY
PLUMP!!



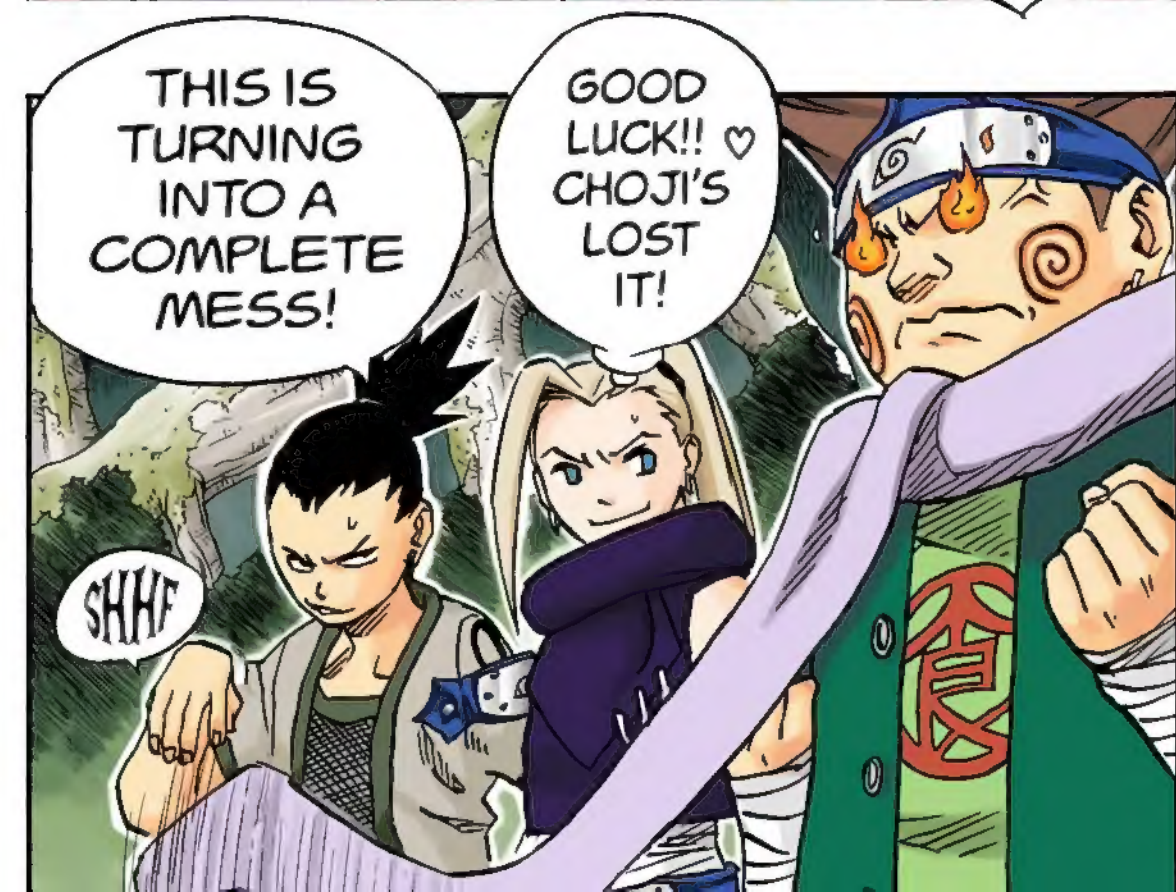
KONOH
AND THE
SOUND
NINJA
ARE AT
WAR!!

DOES
EVERYONE
UNDER-
STAND?!
DO YOU
GET
ME?!



RRROARR
PLEASINGLY
PLUMP PEOPLE
UNITE!!!

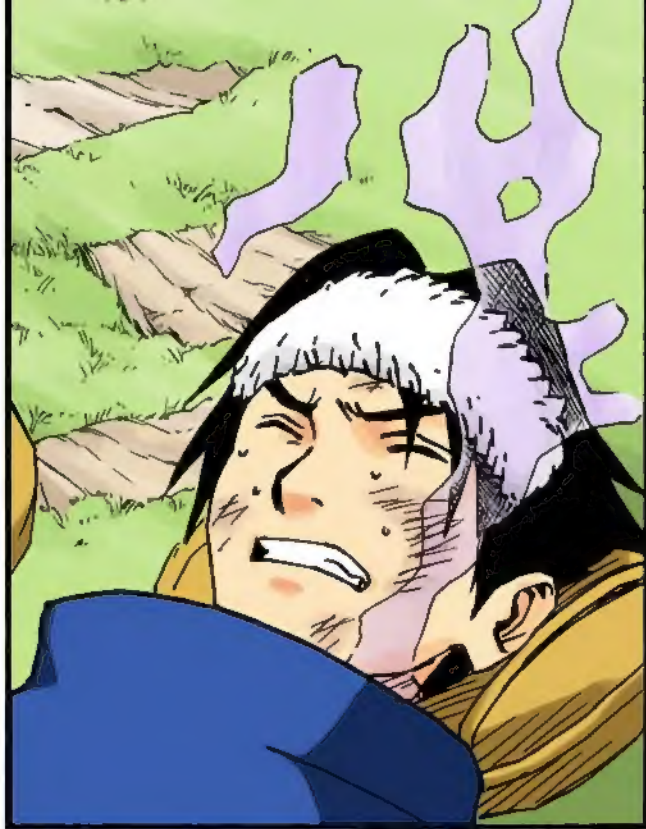
UNREAL!



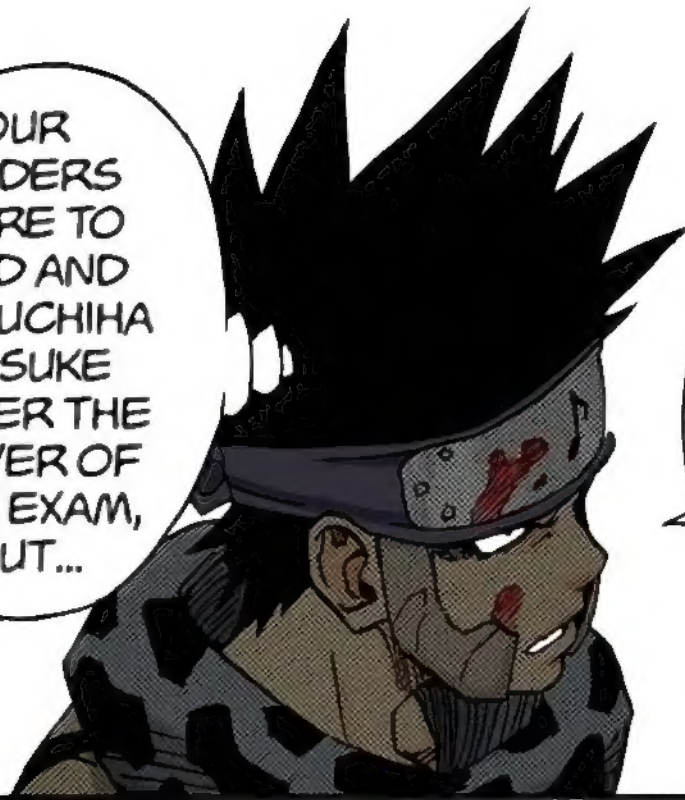
THIS IS
TURNING
INTO A
COMPLETE
MESS!

GOOD
LUCK!! ♡
CHOJI'S
LOST
IT!

SHHF



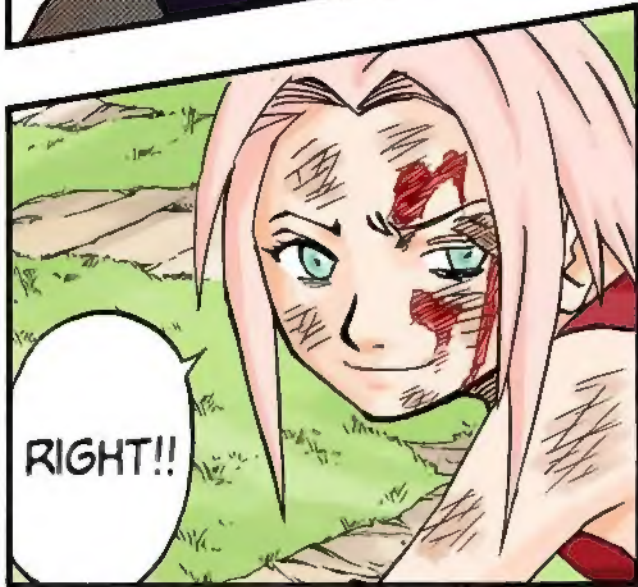
OUR
ORDERS
WERE TO
FIND AND
KILL UCHIHA
SASUKE
UNDER THE
COVER OF
THIS EXAM,
BUT...



...IT
CERTAINLY
IS.



STAY
HERE AND
WATCH
OVER
YOUR
TEAM.

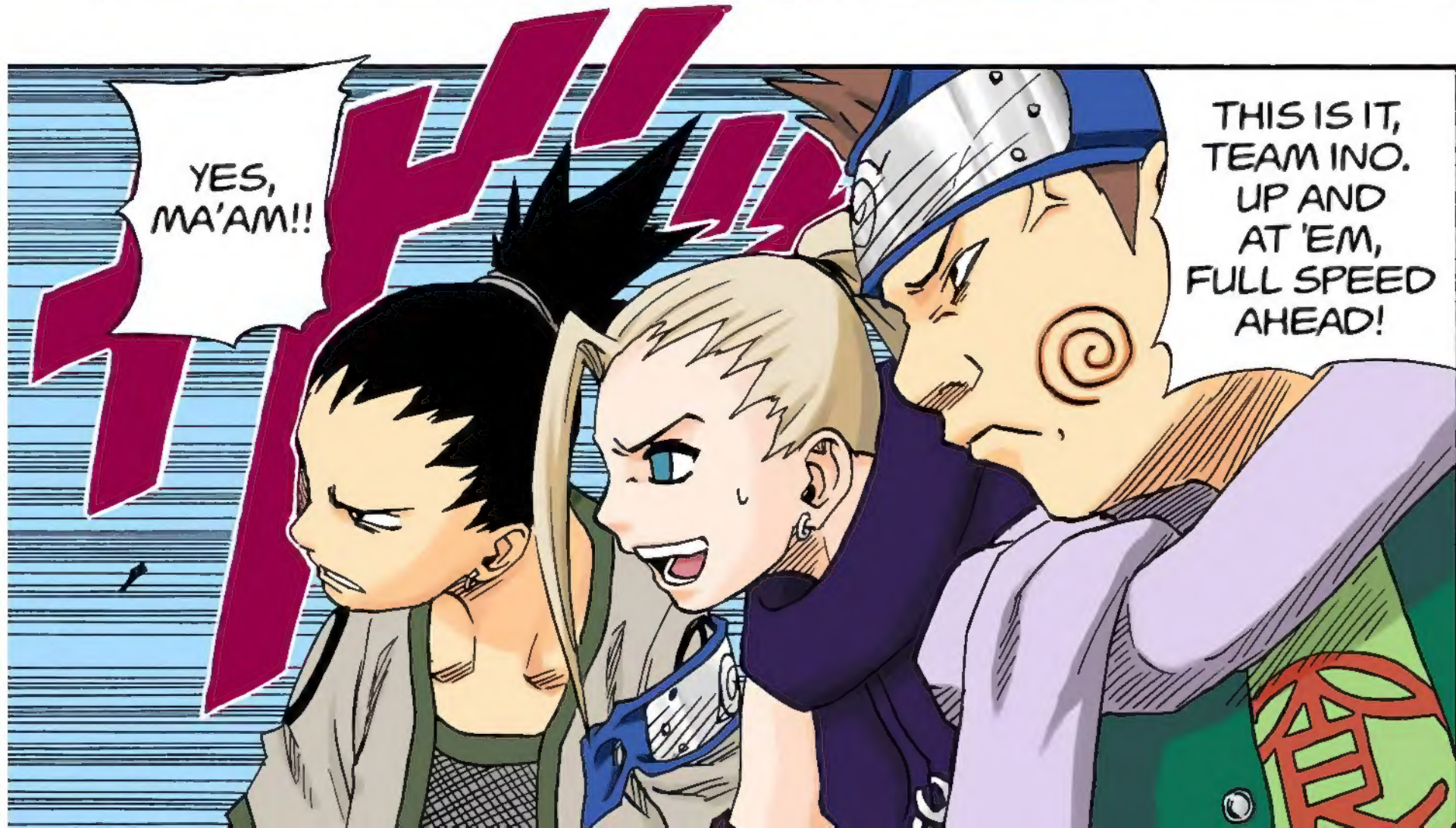


RIGHT!!



SAKURA...!

!!



YES,
MA'AM!!

THIS IS IT,
TEAM INO.
UP AND
AT 'EM,
FULL SPEED
AHEAD!

BAIKA-
NO-
JUTSU!
ART OF
EXPANSION!!

OKAY!!

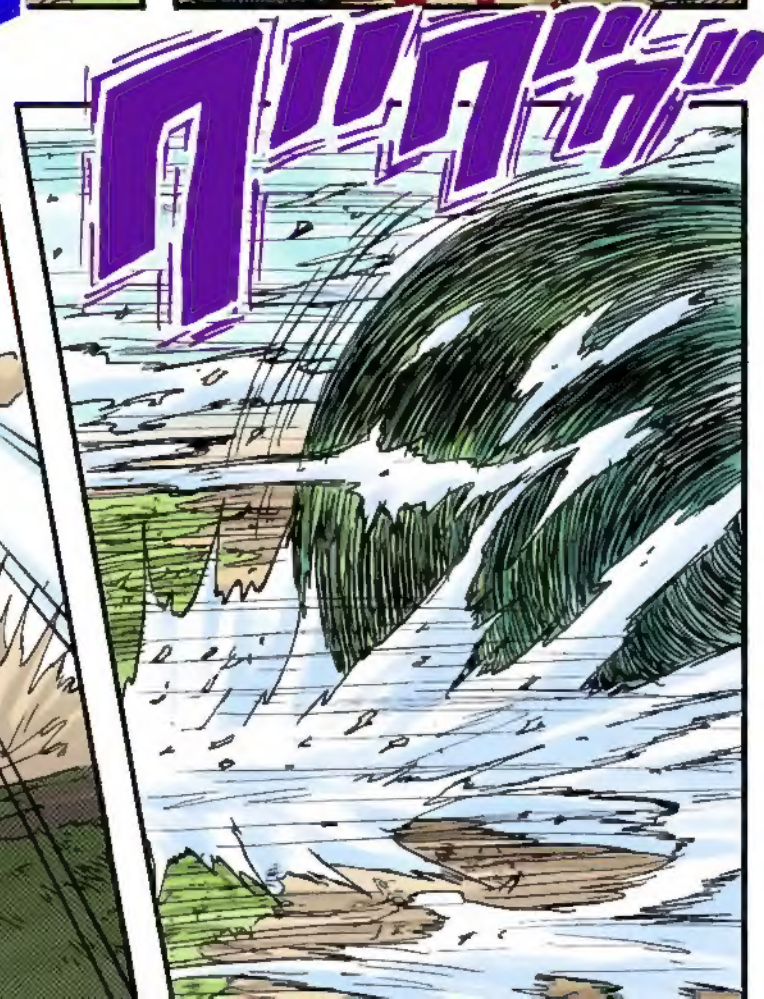
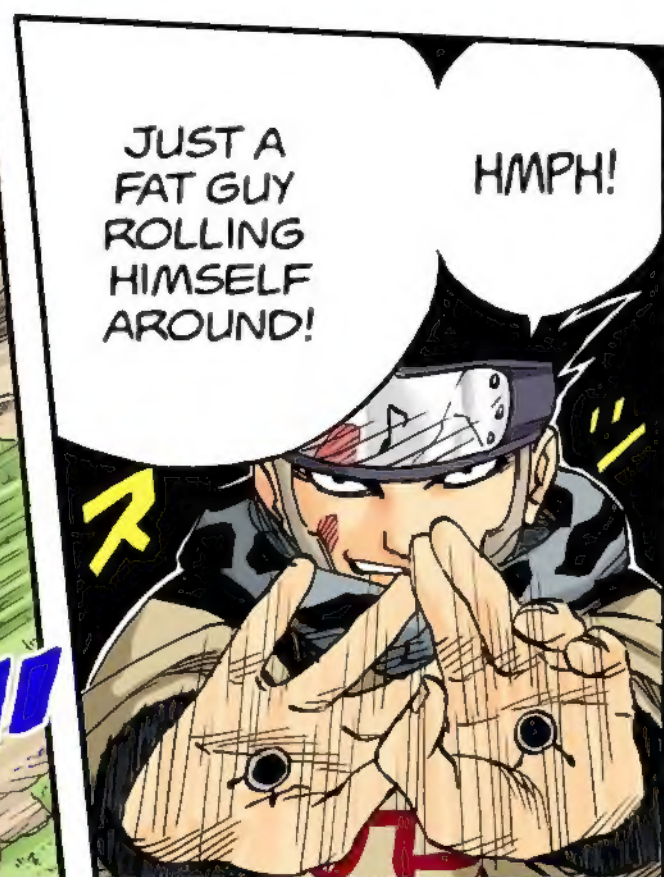
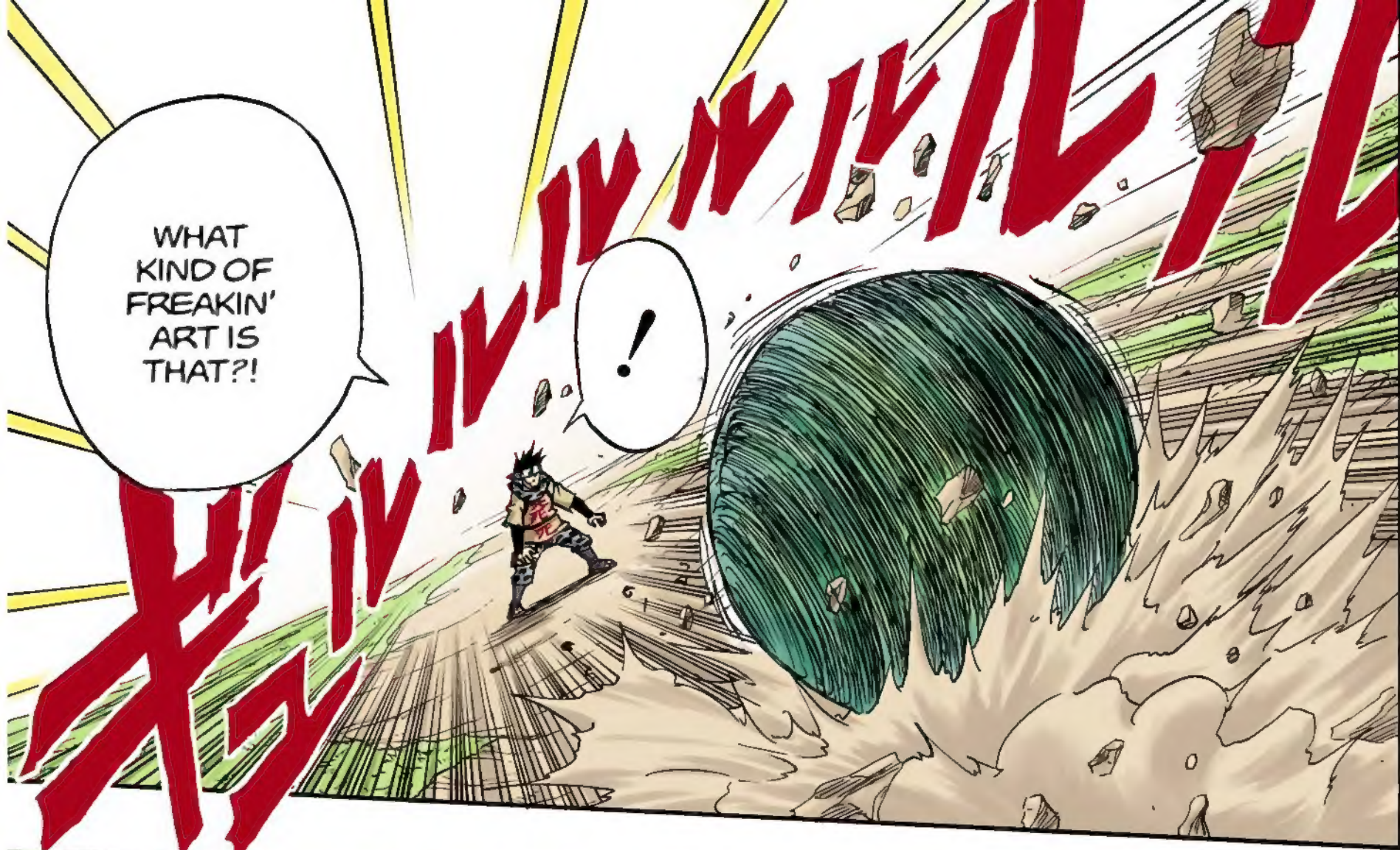
IT'S
ON
YOU,
CHOJI!

INO-
SHIKA-CHO
BOAR-
DEER-
BUTTERFLY
FORMATION!!

THE ART OF EXPANSION:
A SECRET SHINOBI
SKILL PASSED DOWN
TO MEMBERS OF THE
AKIMICHI CLAN.
THIS TECHNIQUE
ENABLES A NINJA TO
TEMPORARILY ENLARGE
PART OR ALL OF
HIS OWN BODY.
IT'S USE REQUIRES
THE EXPENDITURE
OF AN ENORMOUS
AMOUNT OF CALORIC
ENERGY.

FOLLOWED
BY KONOHA-
STYLE
PHYSICAL ART
THE NIKUDAN
SENSHA,
OR HUMAN
JUGGERNAUT!!







IF THAT
THING
HITS ME
I'LL BE
PULVERIZED!

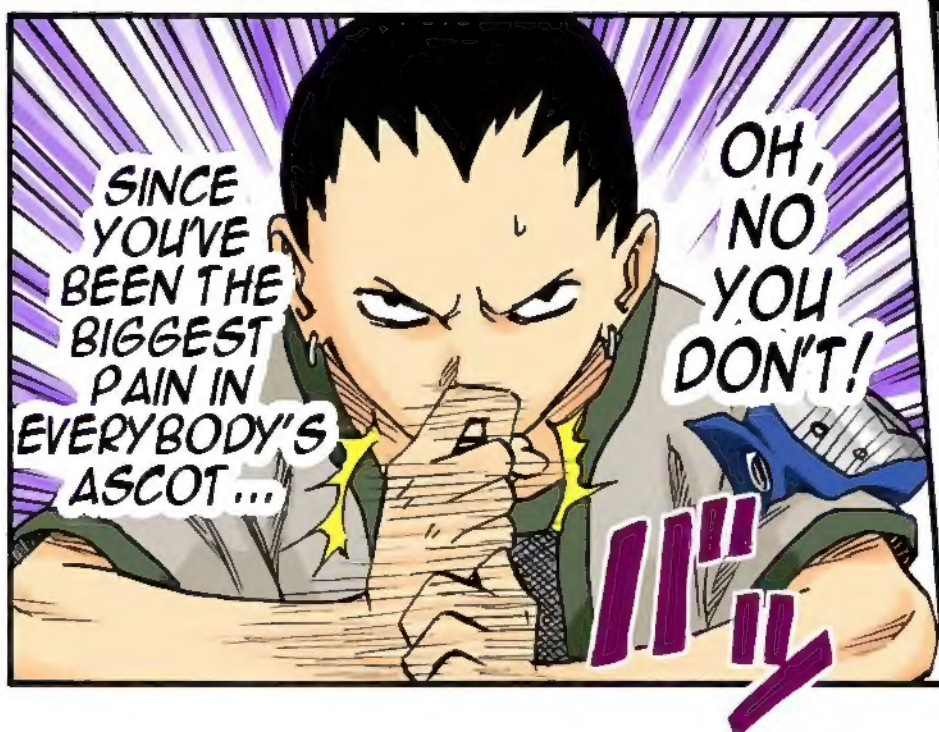
MAYBE
ULTRA-
SONIC
WAVES
?!



WITH THAT
KIND OF
ROTATION...
SO MUCH
FOR AIR
PRESSURE!

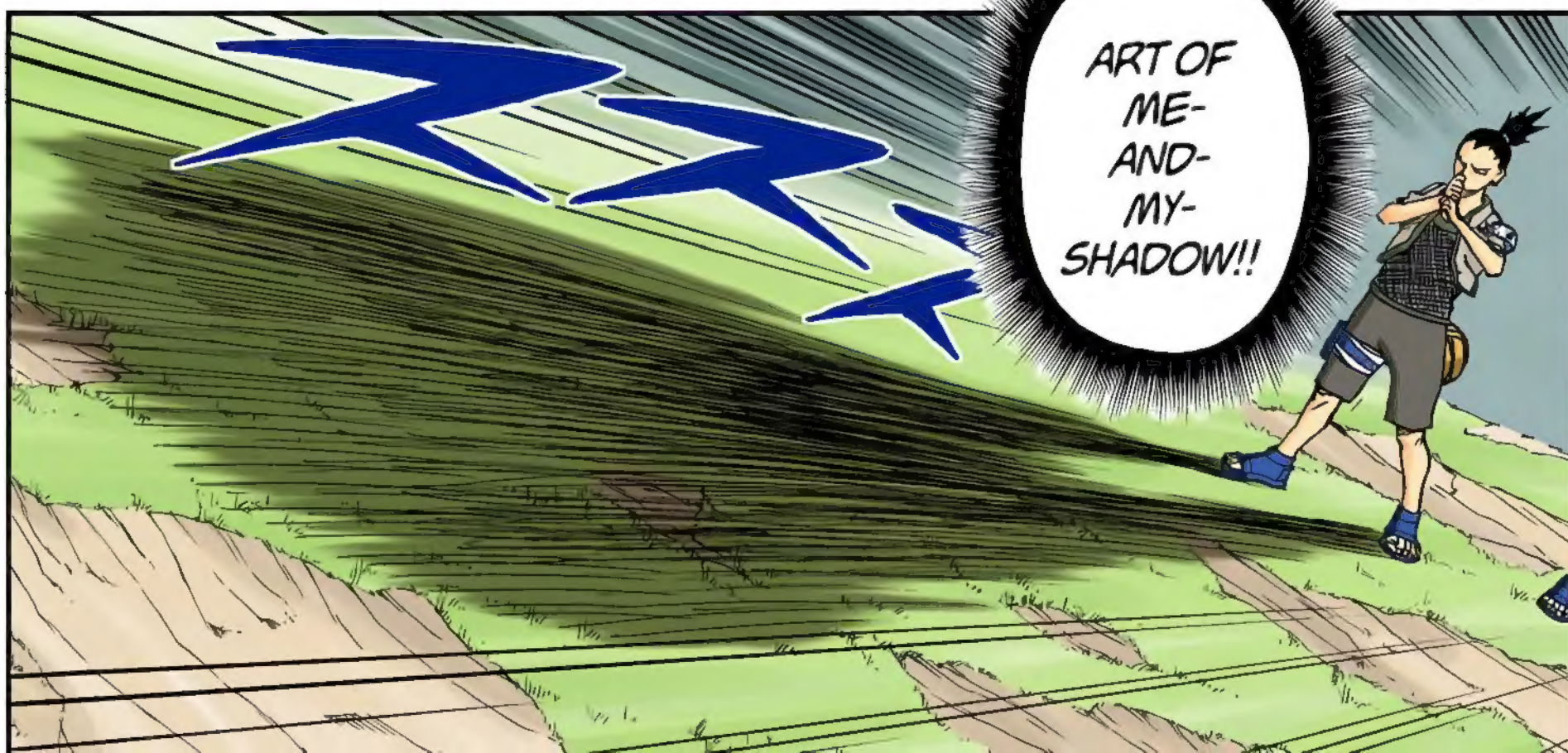
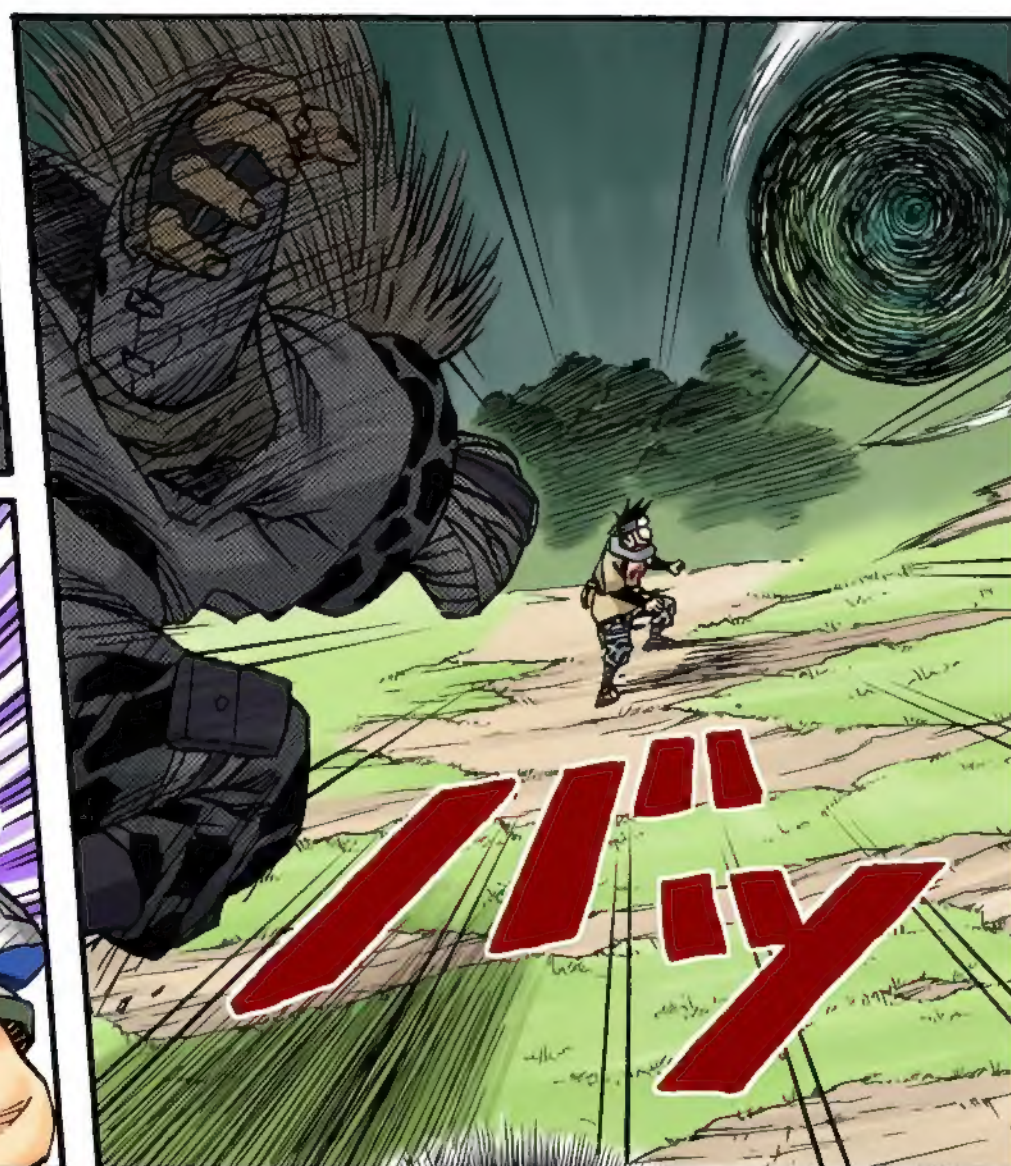


DARN!!

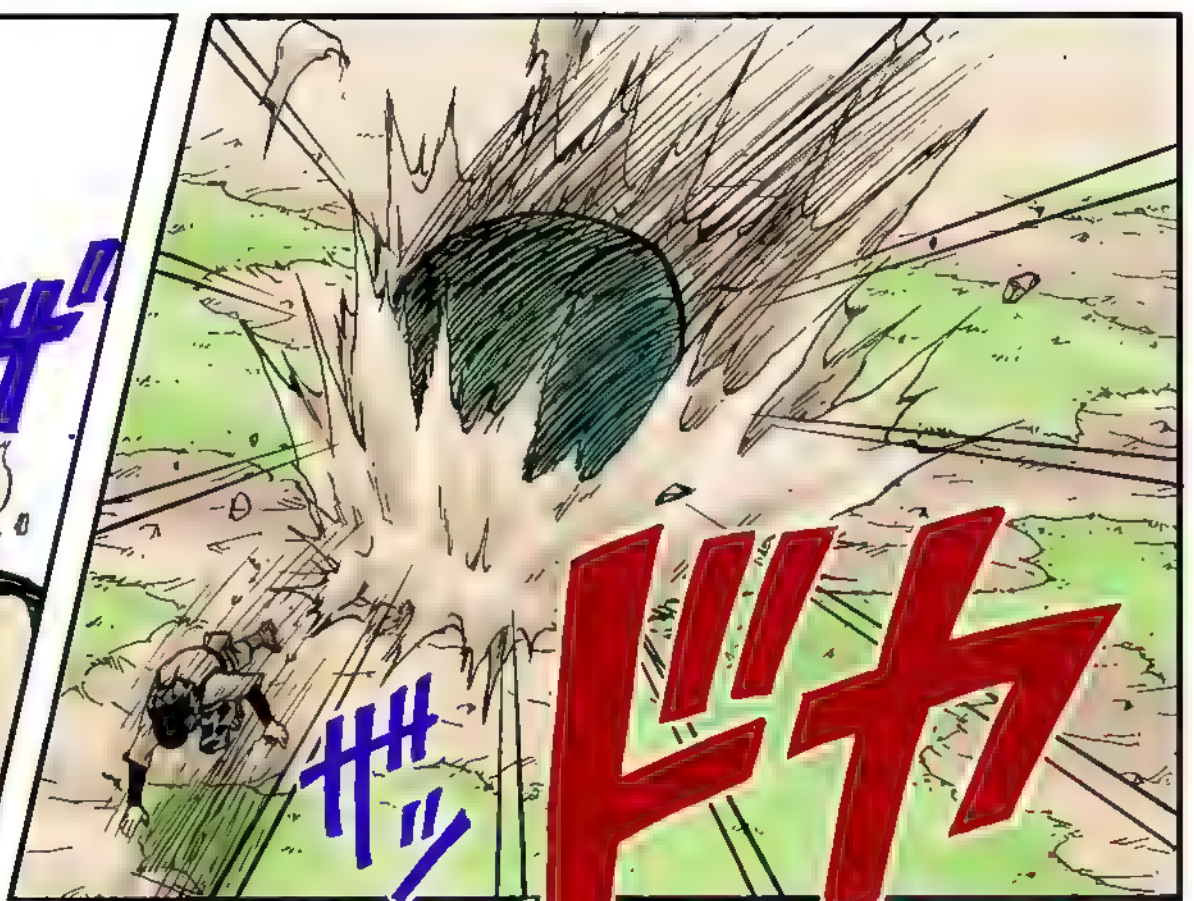
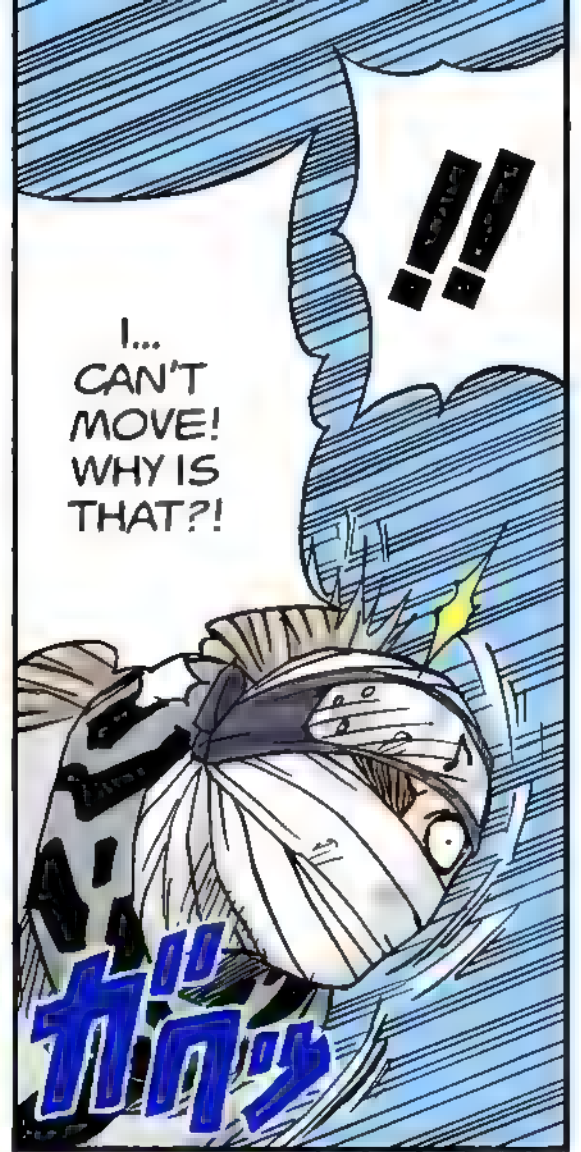
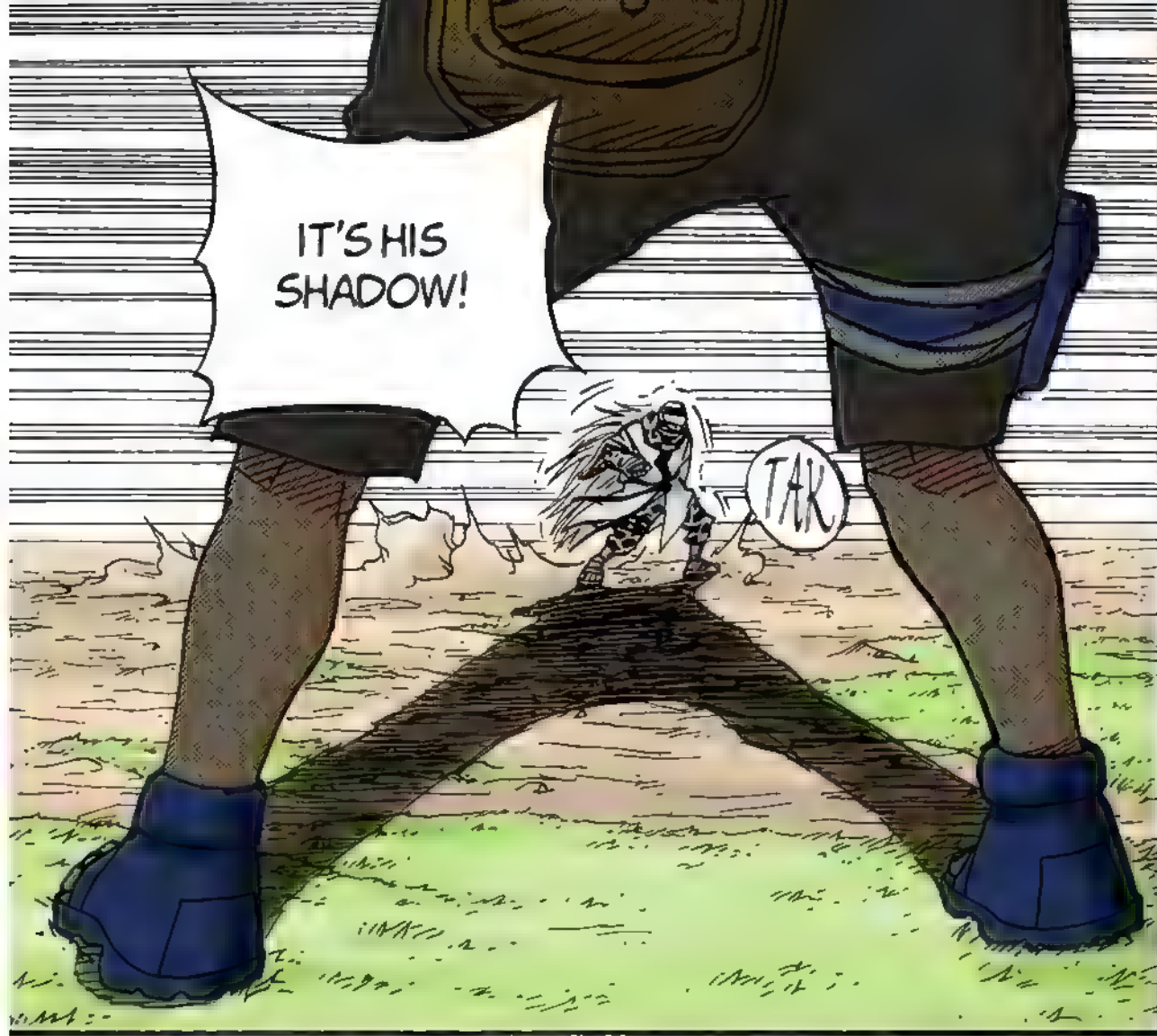


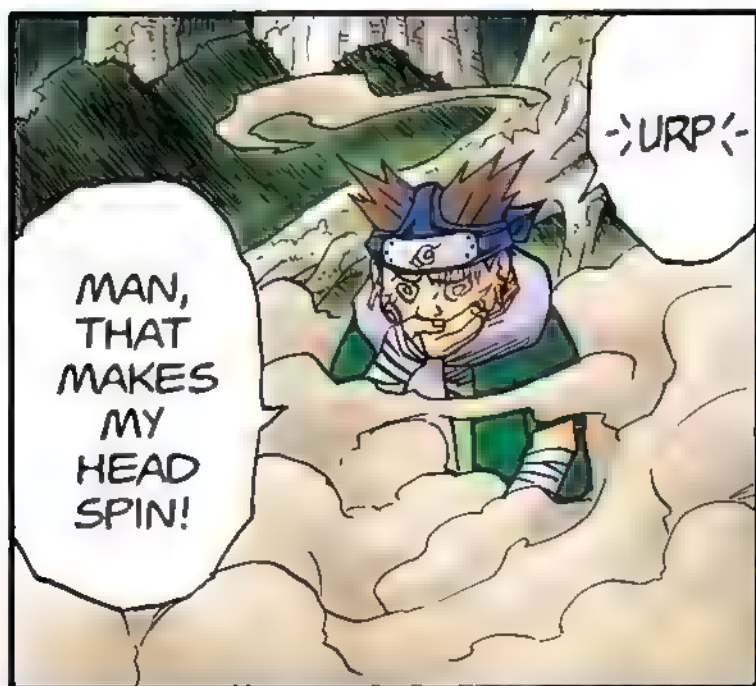
SINCE
YOU'VE
BEEN THE
BIGGEST
PAIN IN
EVERYBODY'S
ASCOT...

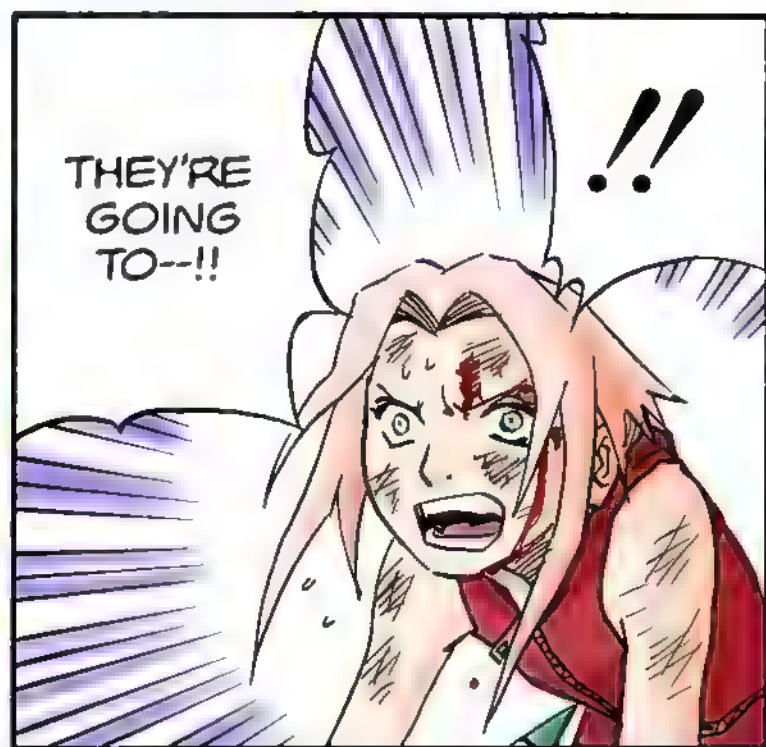
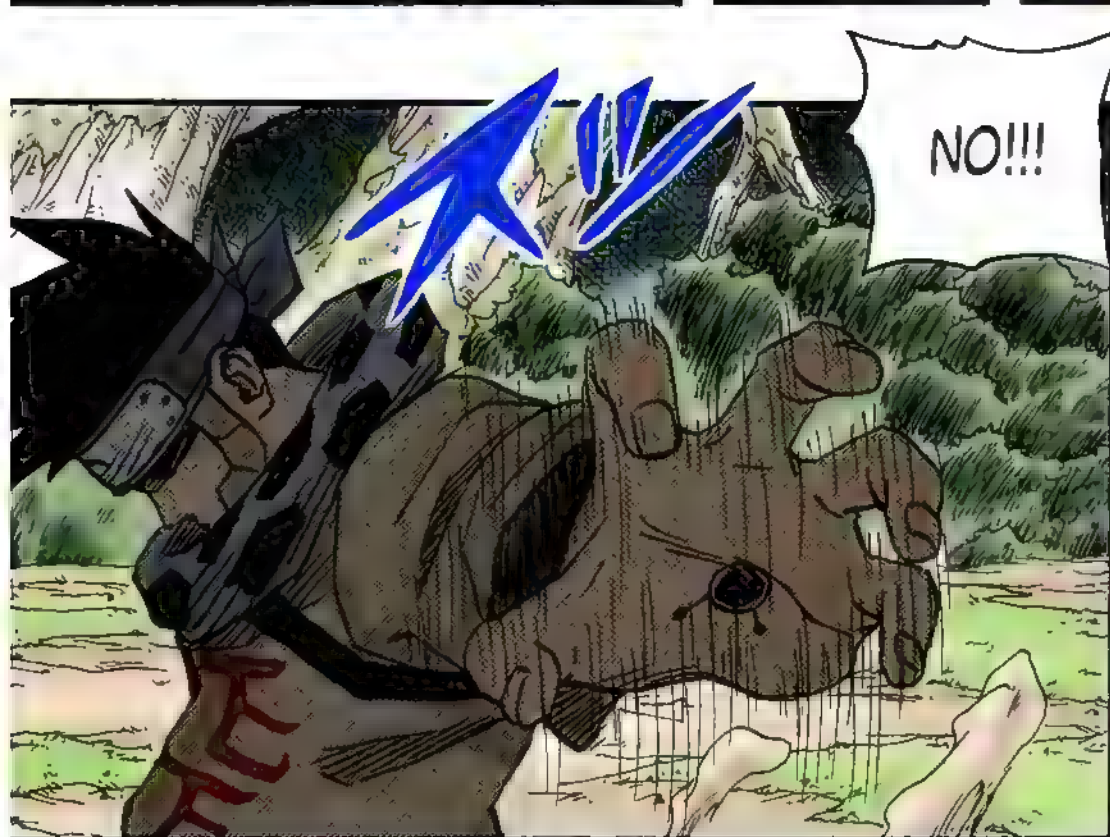
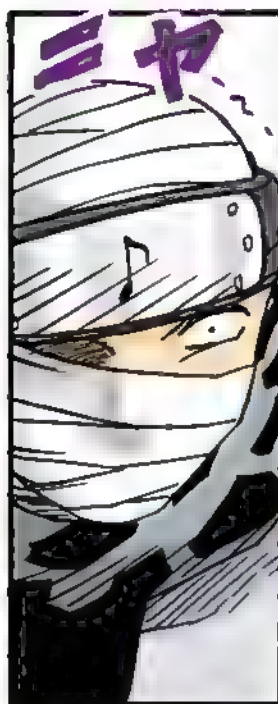
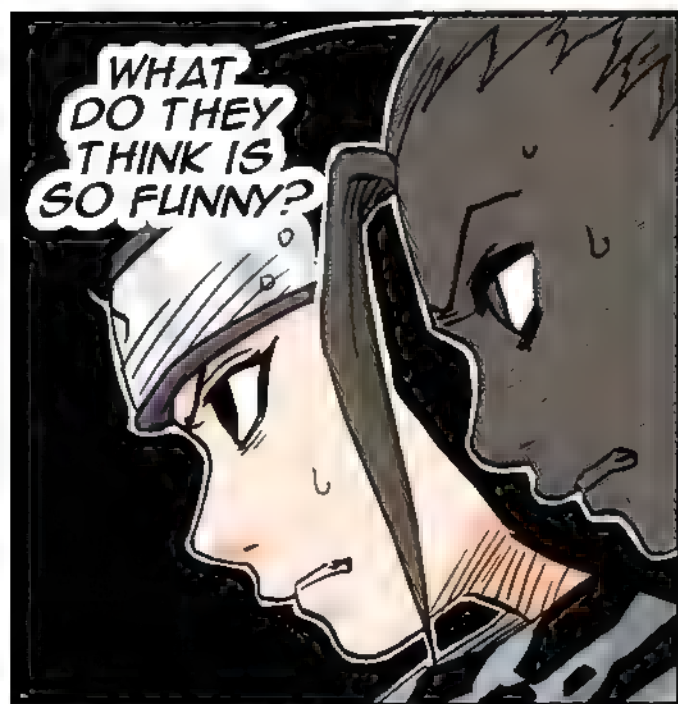
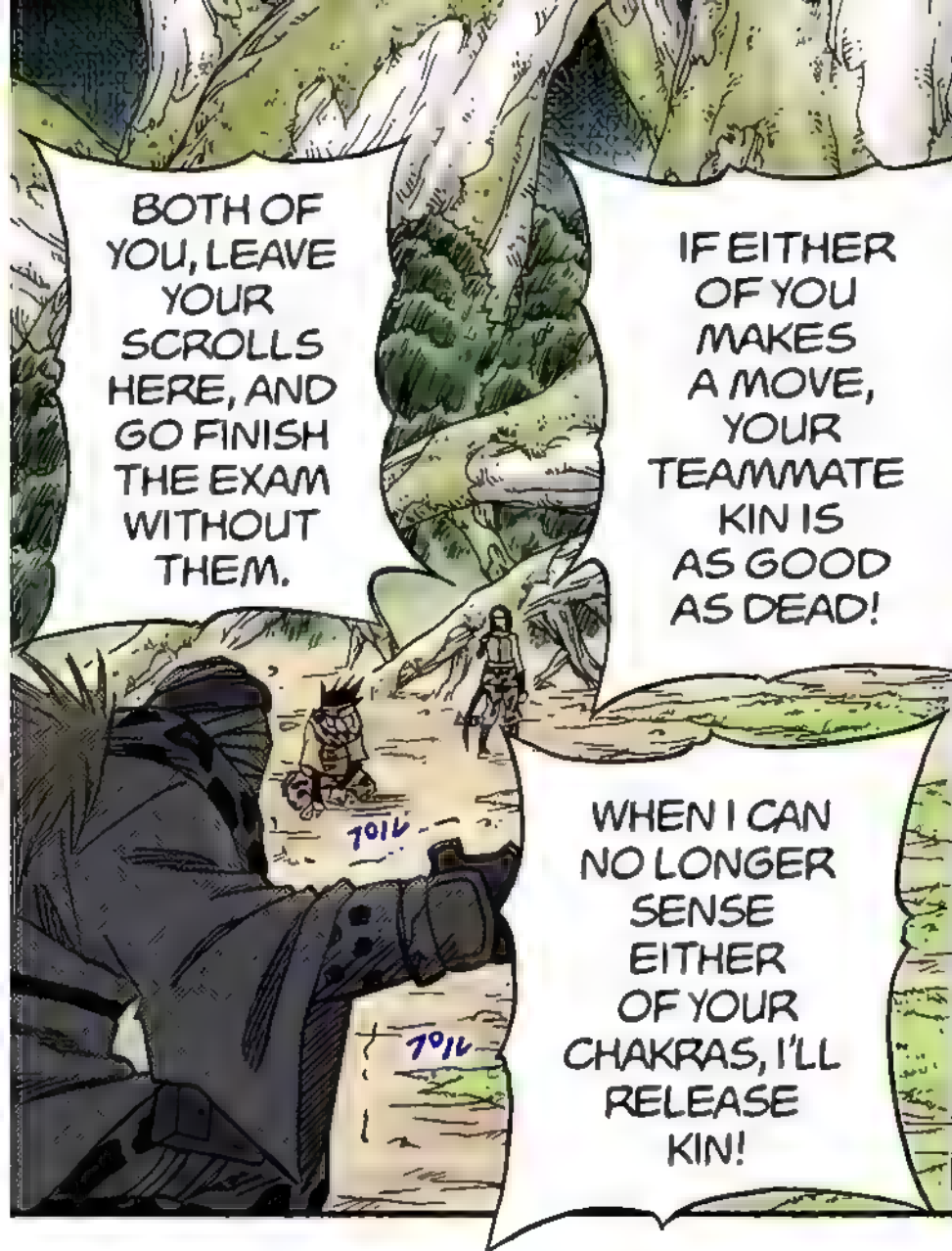
OH,
NO
YOU
DON'T!

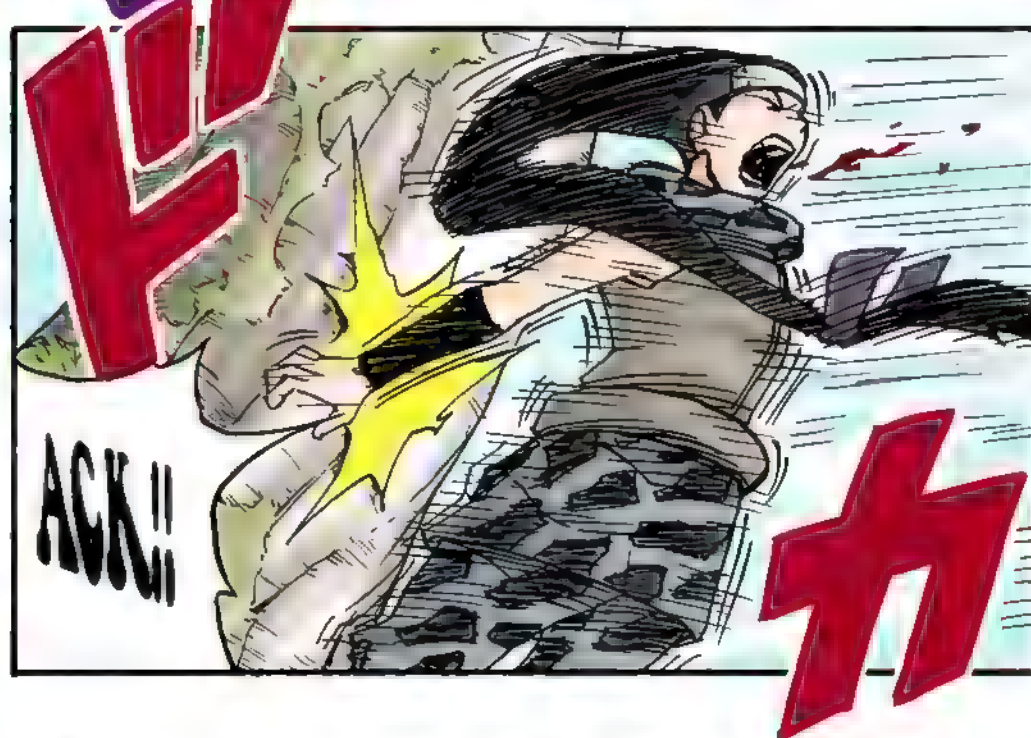
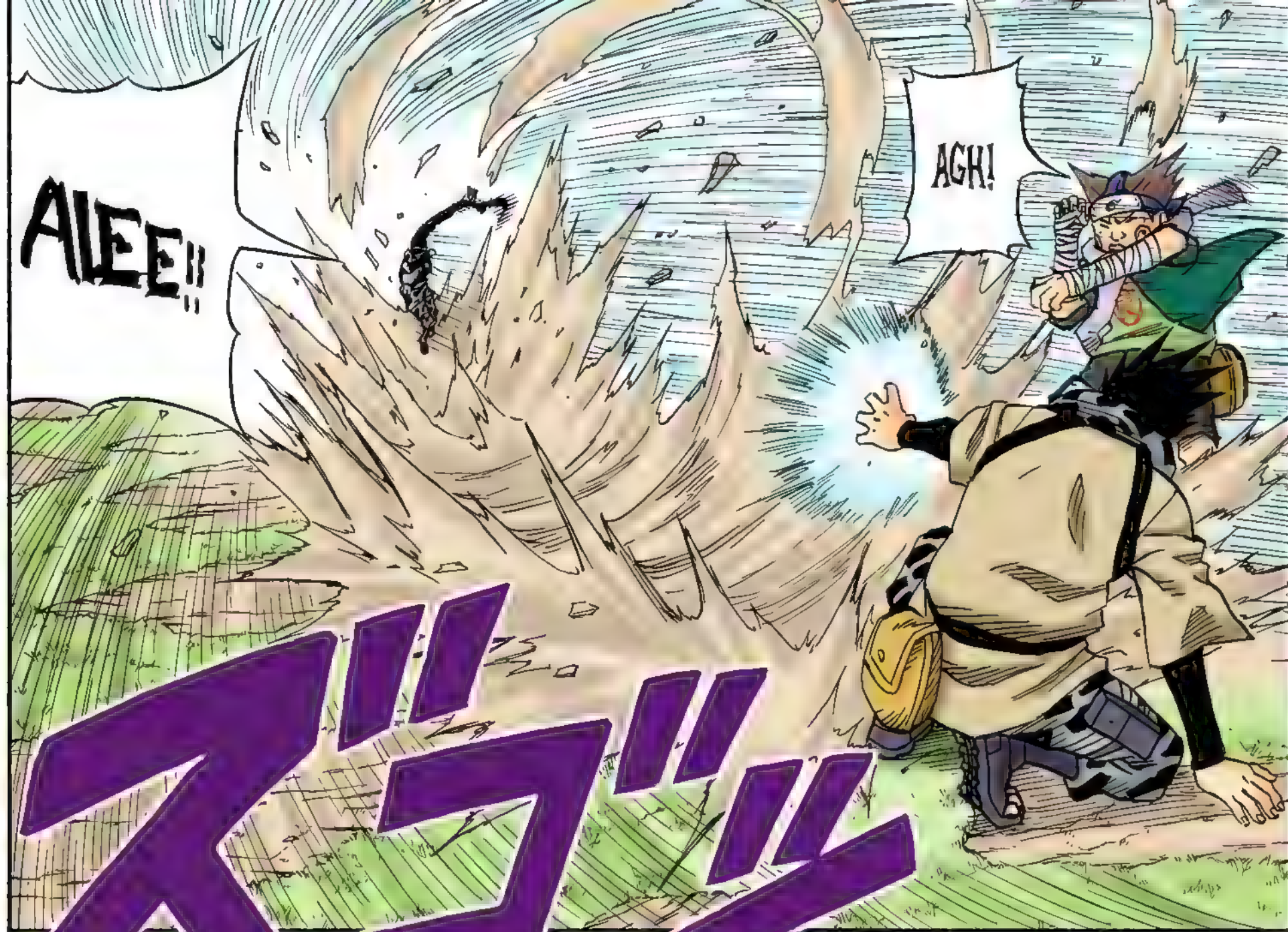


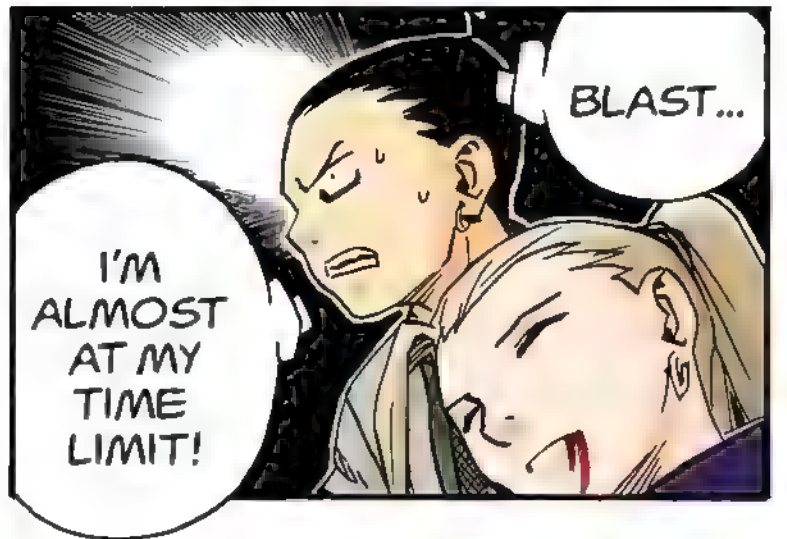
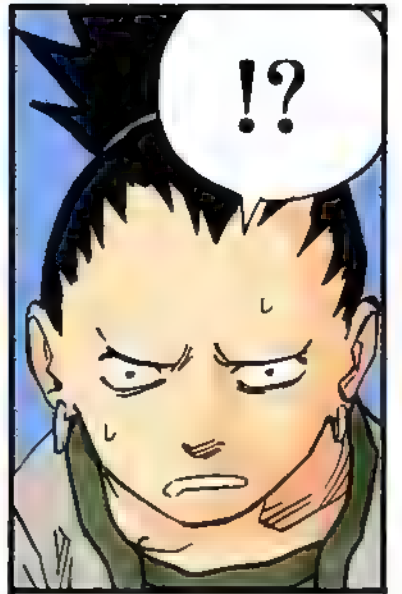
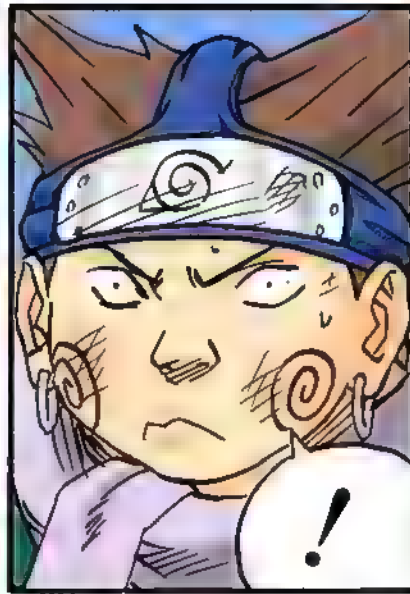
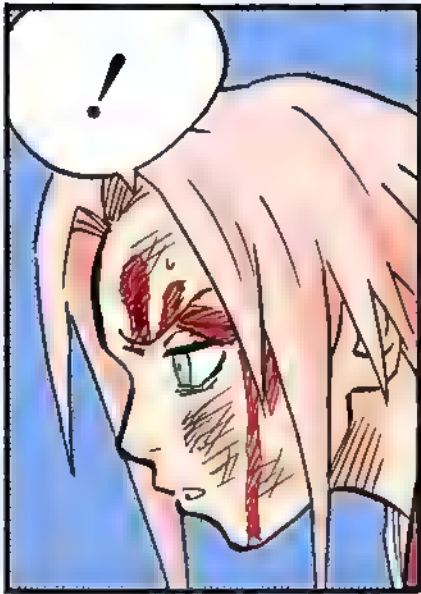
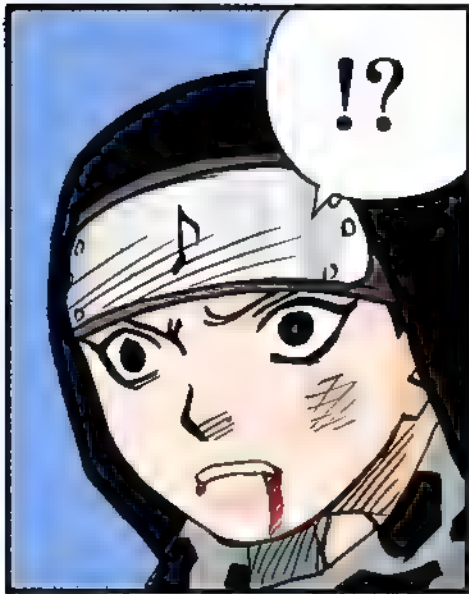
ART OF
ME-
AND-
MY-
SHADOW!!

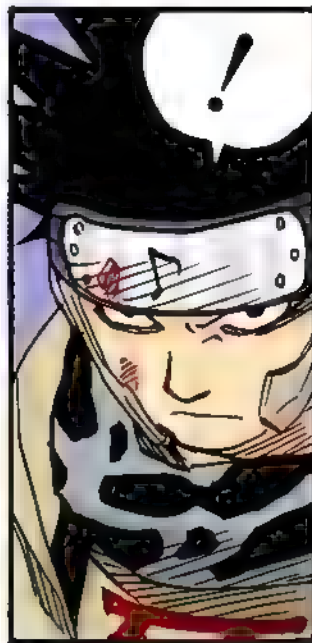


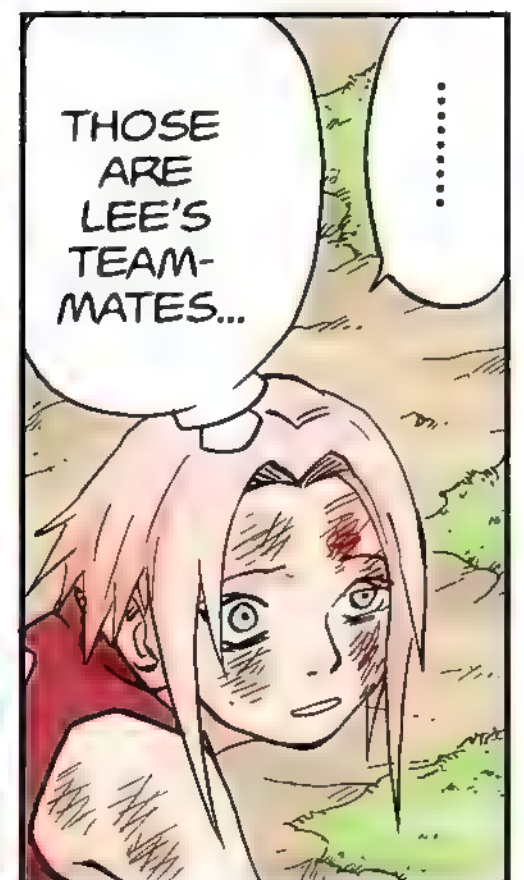
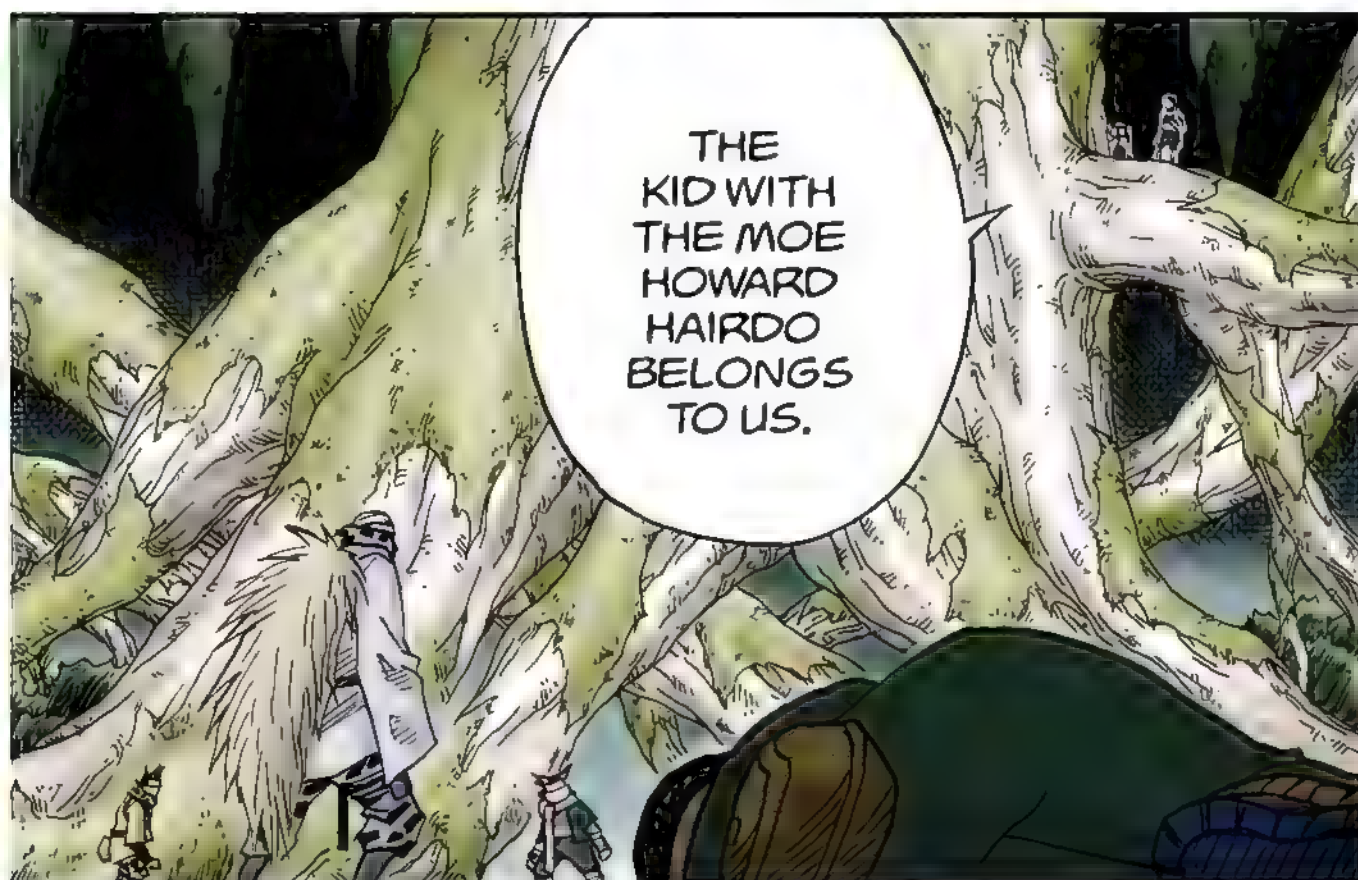
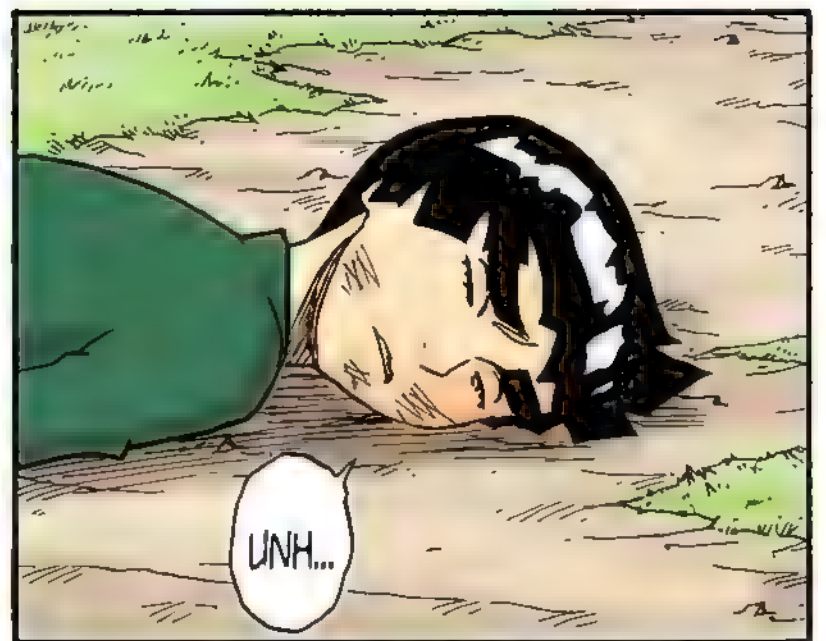
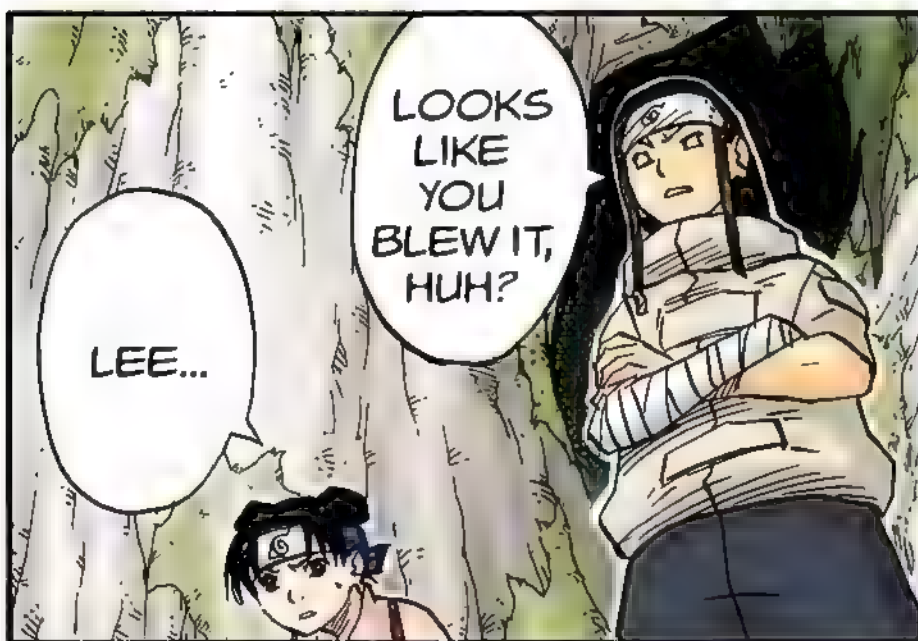
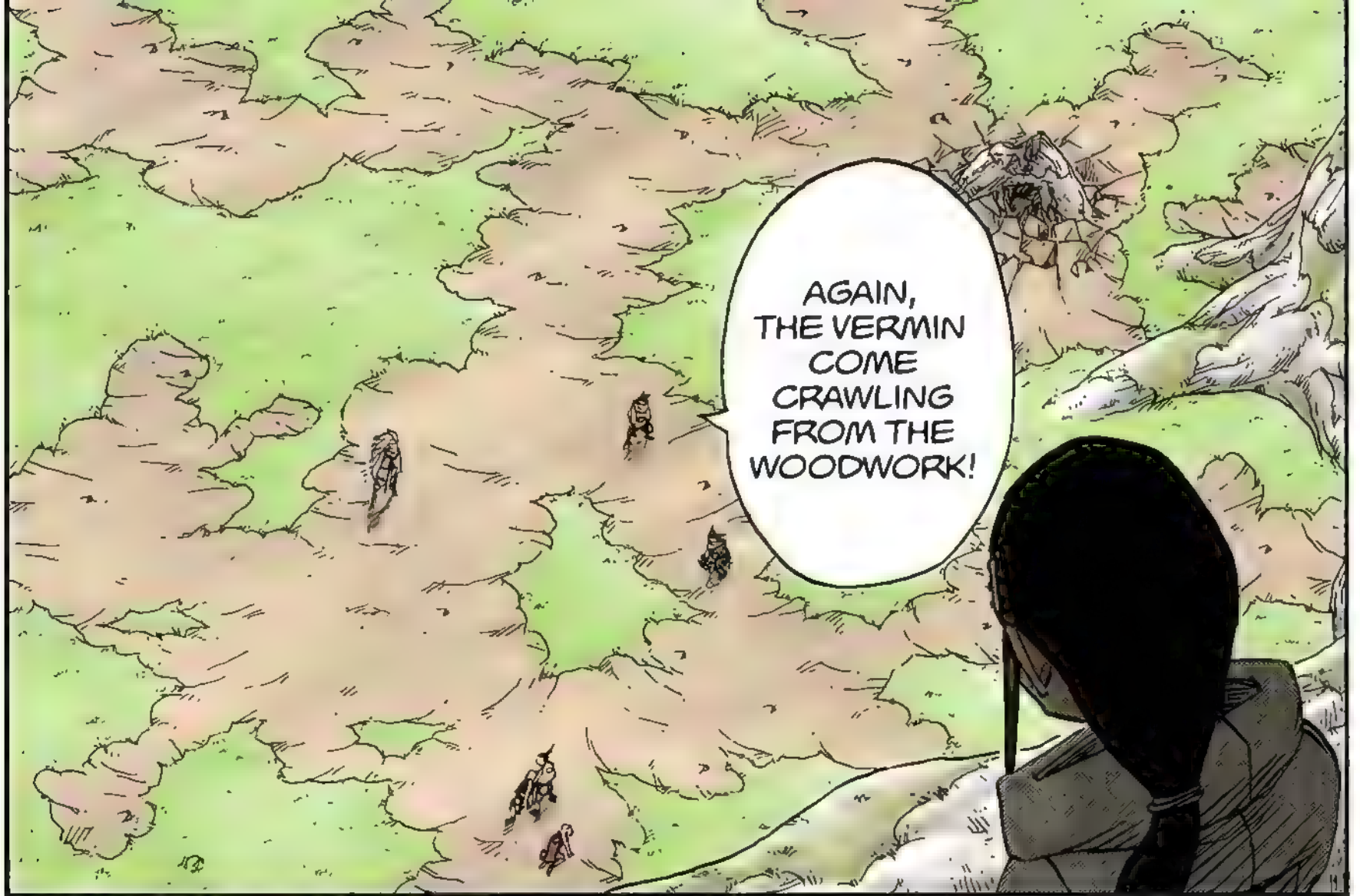


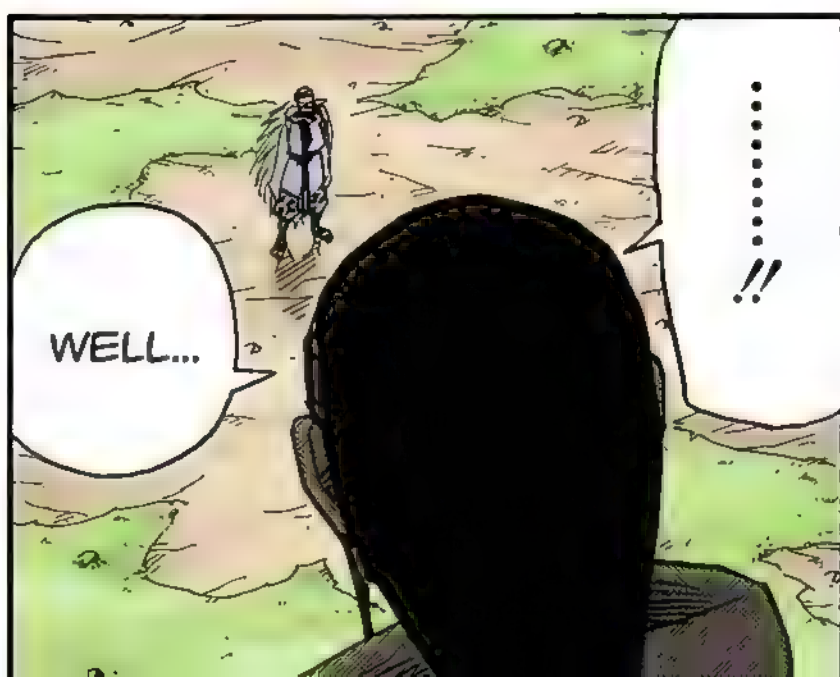
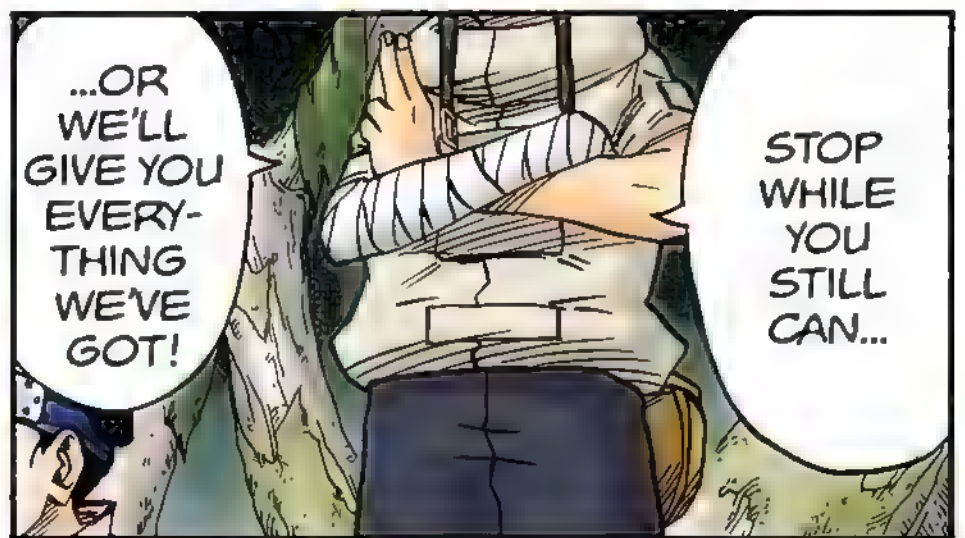
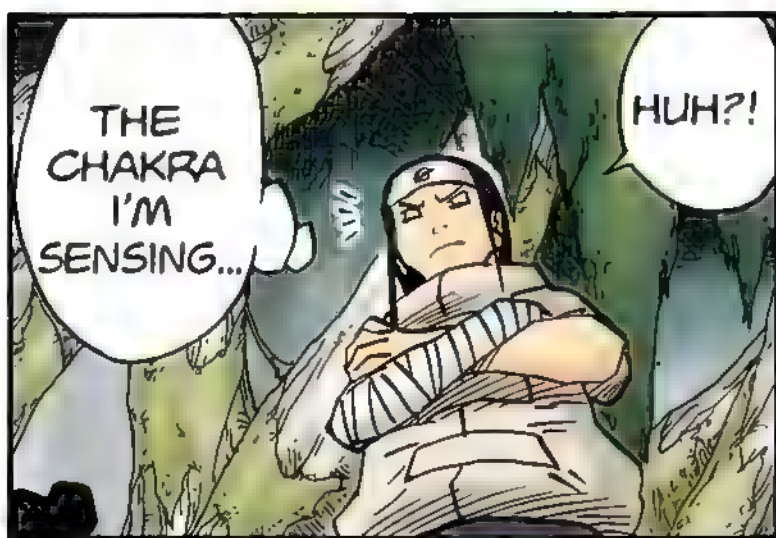
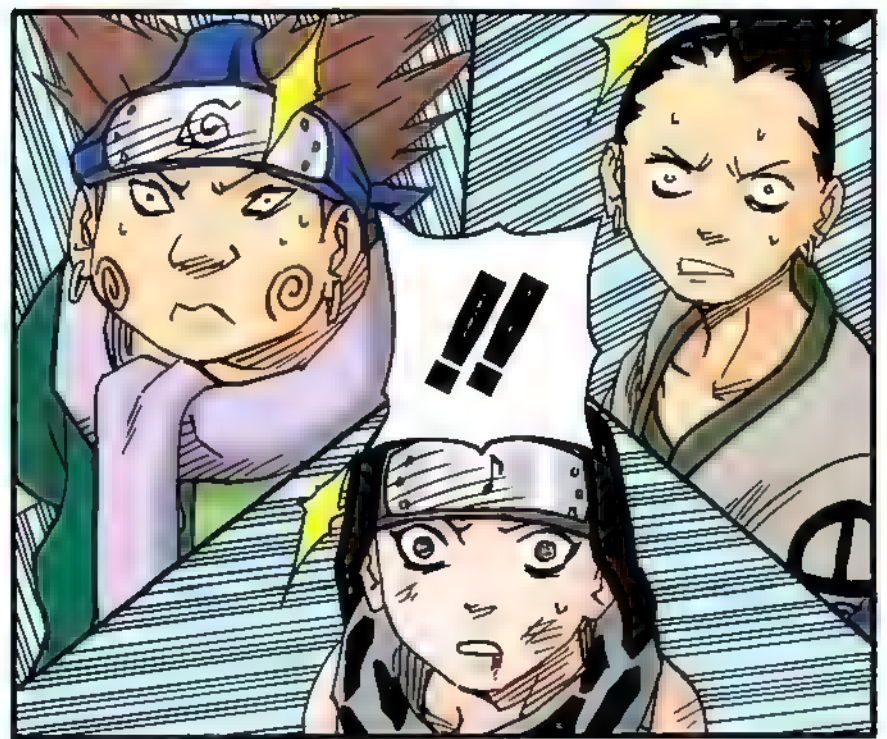




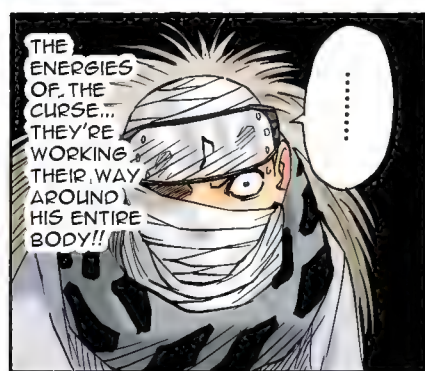






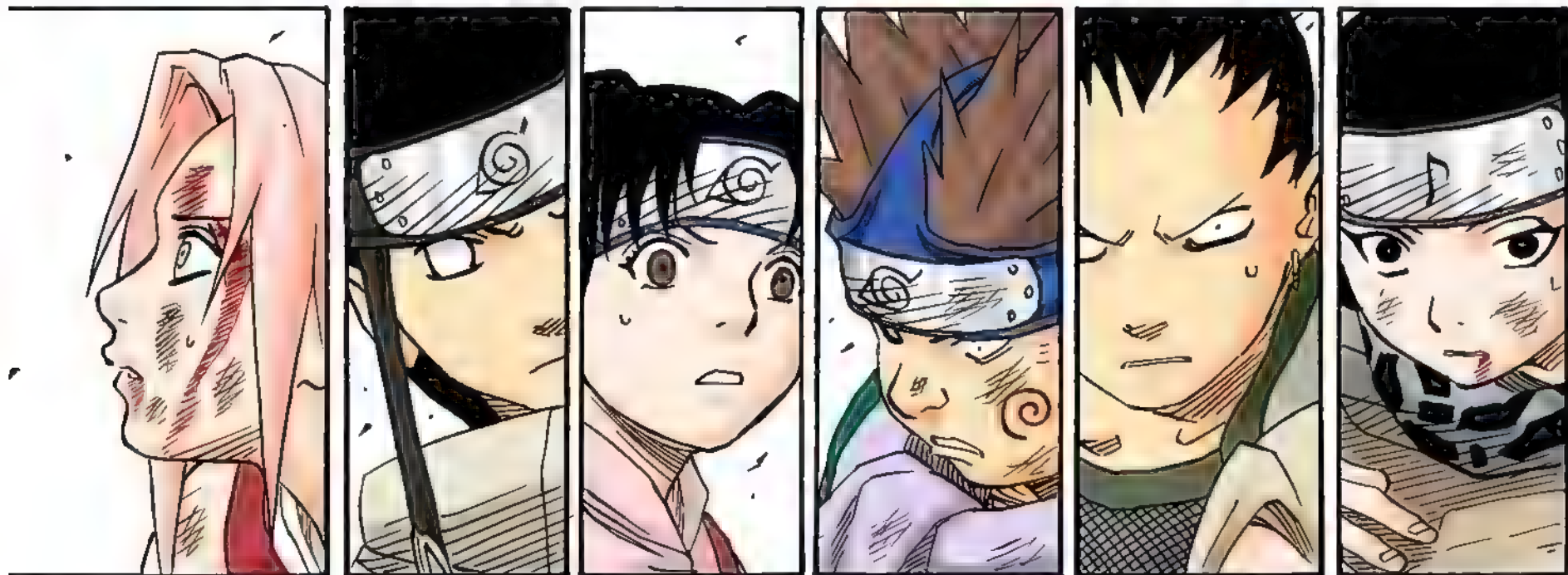


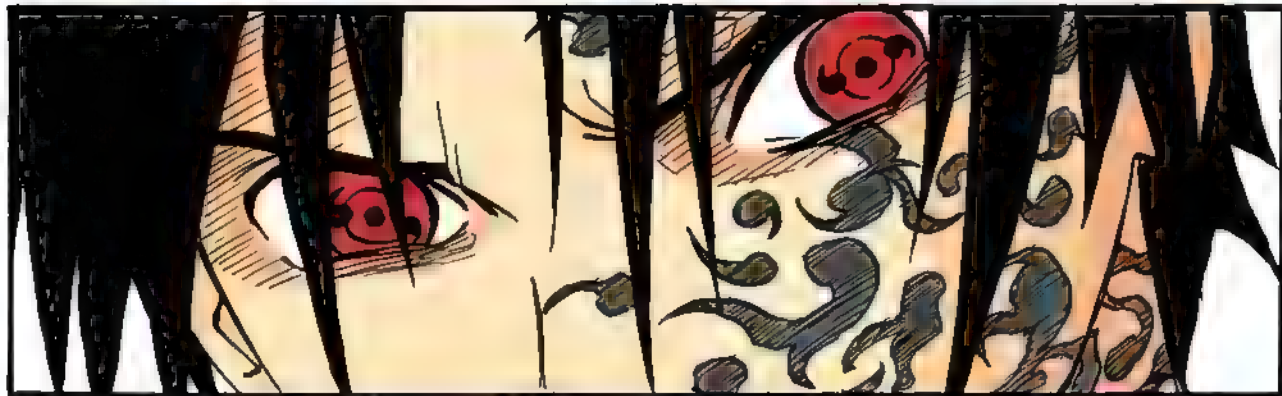
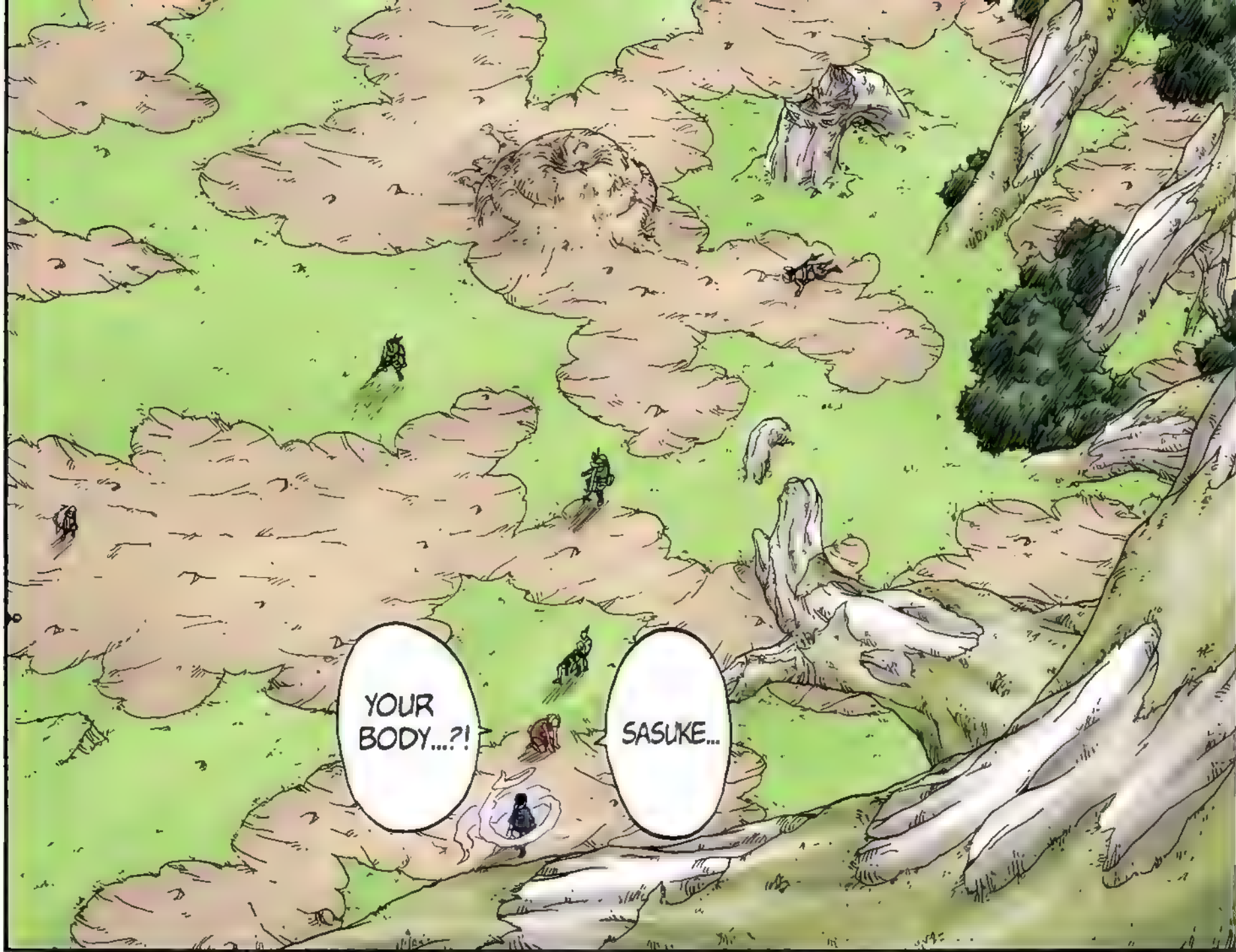






THE STRENGTH THAT IS GIVEN!!

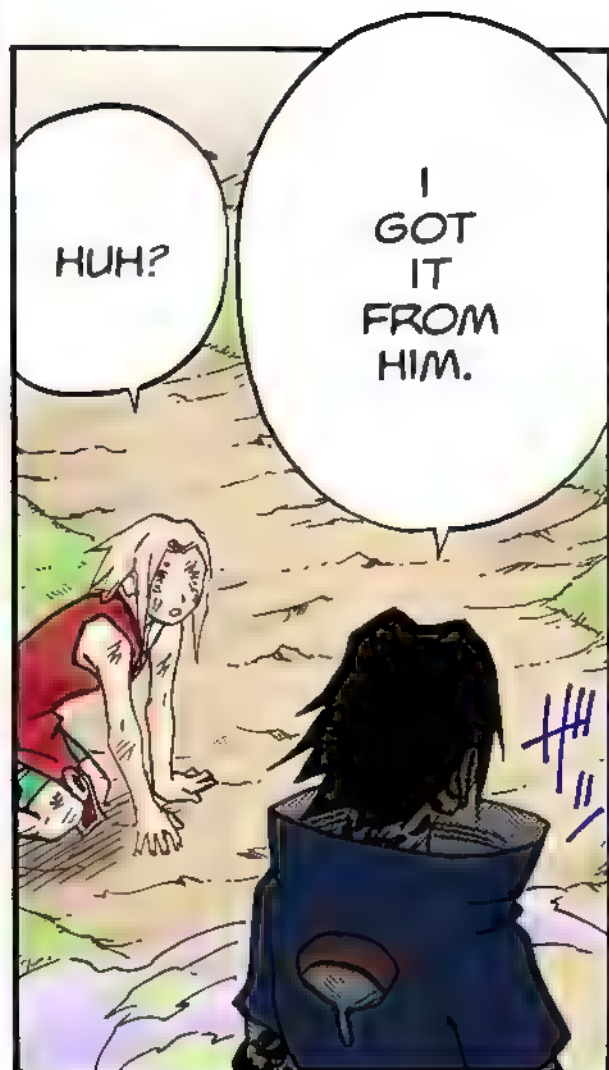






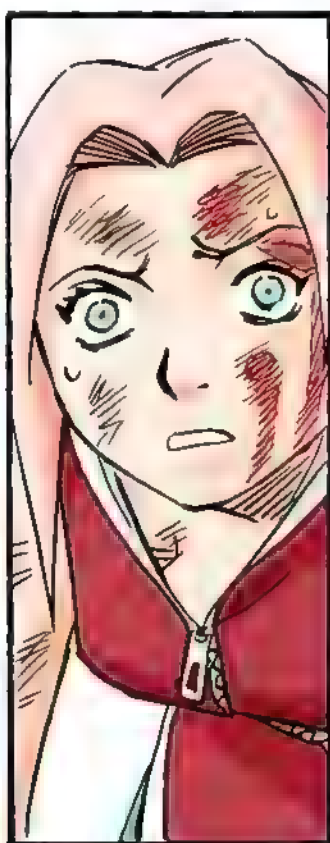
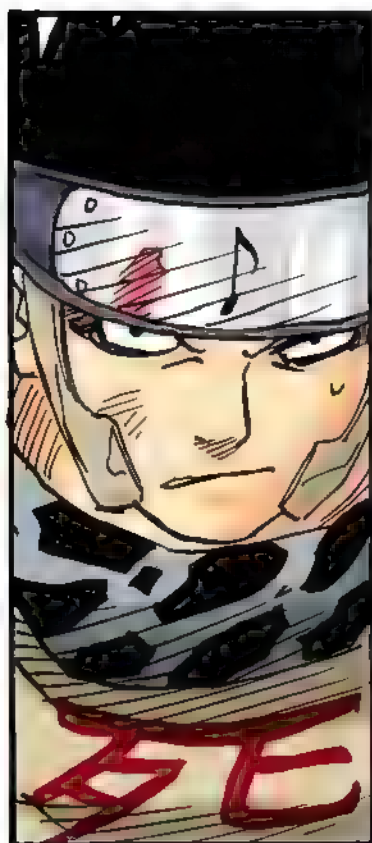
I
UNDERSTAND
NOW.

I
AM
AN
AVENGER...



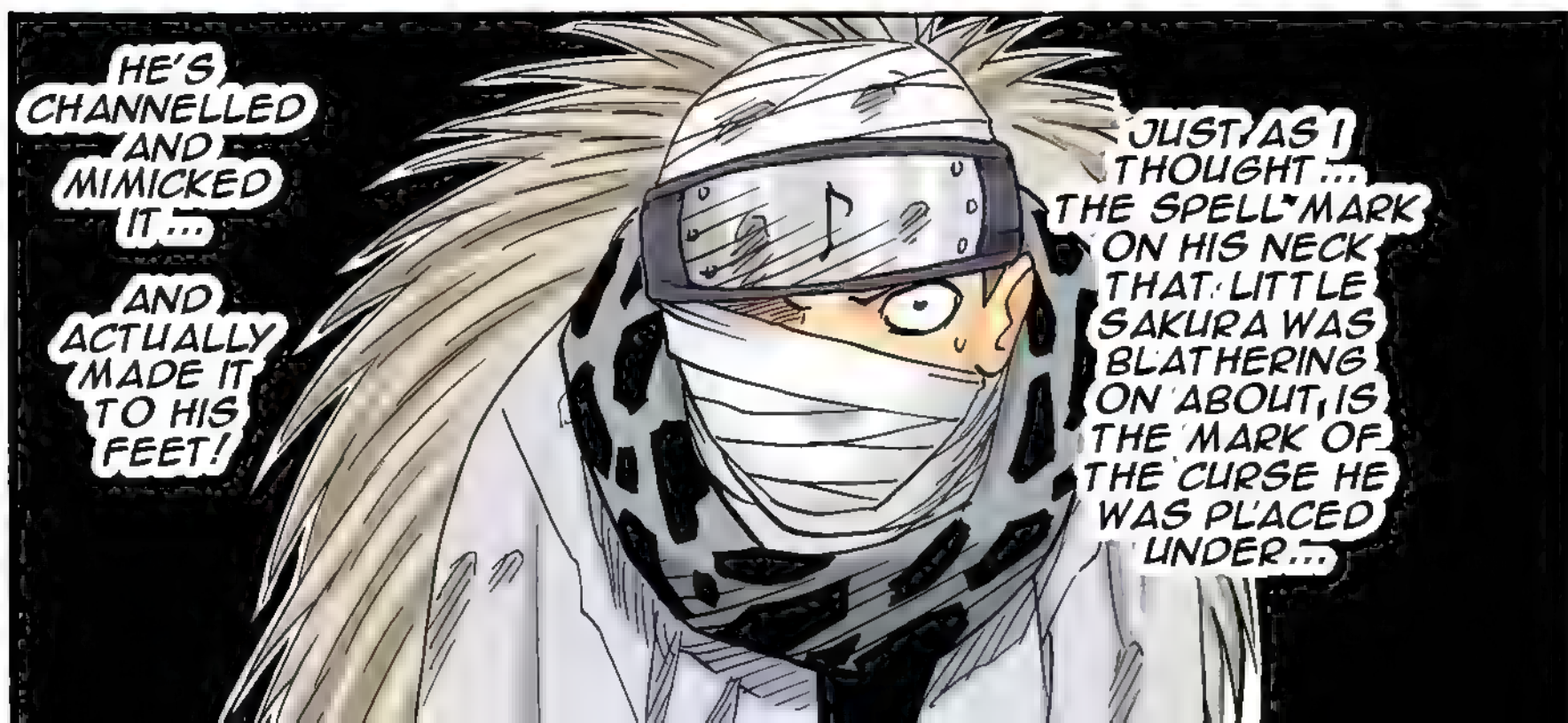
HUH?

I
GOT
IT
FROM
HIM.



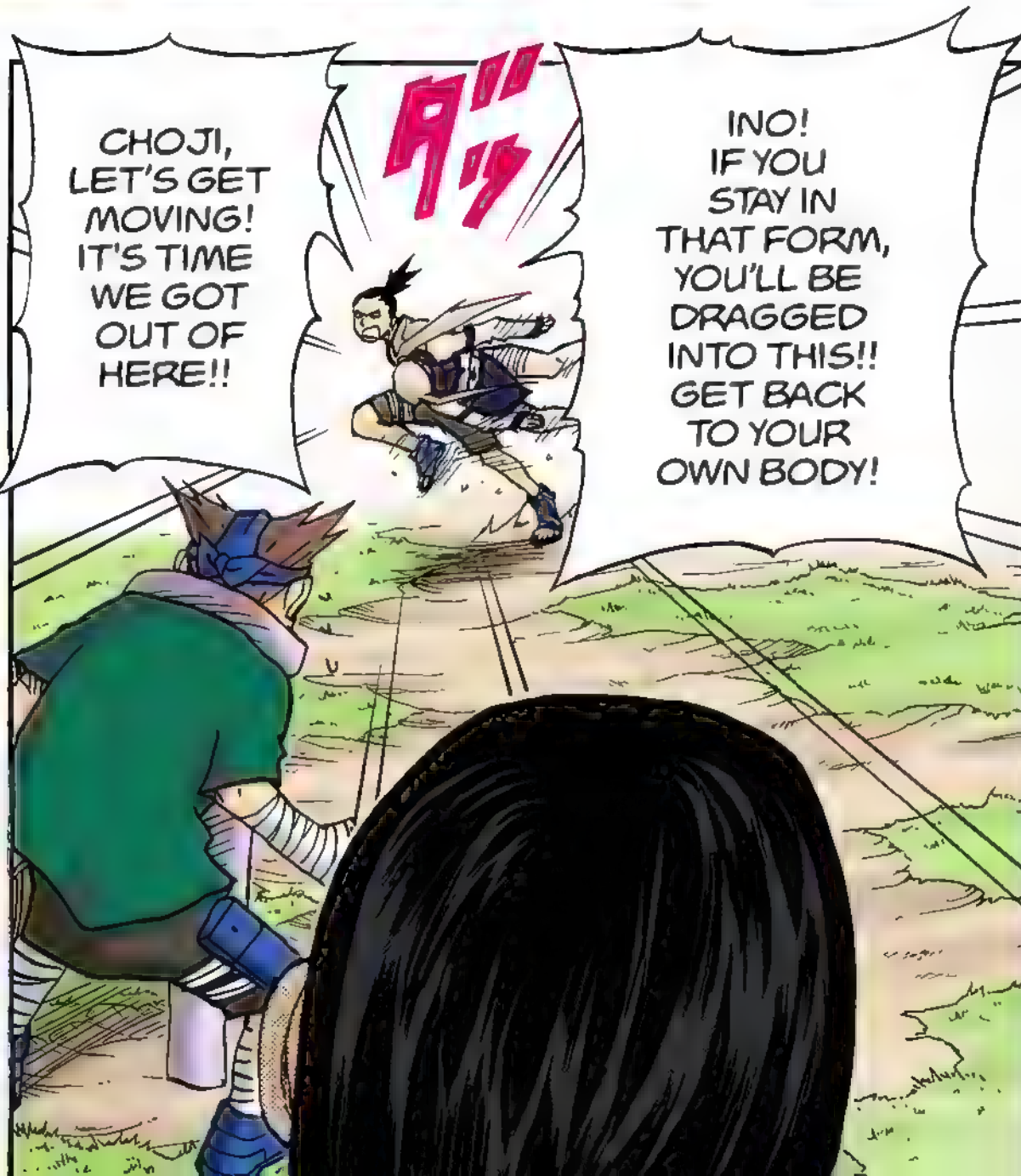
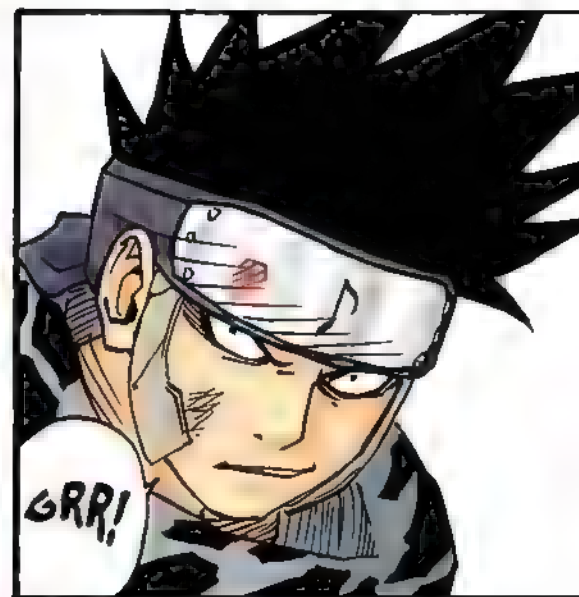
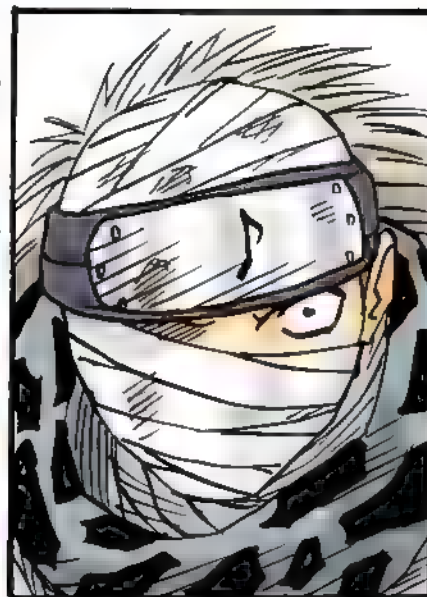
...EVEN IF
IT MEANS
SELLING
MY FLESH
TO THE
DEVIL!

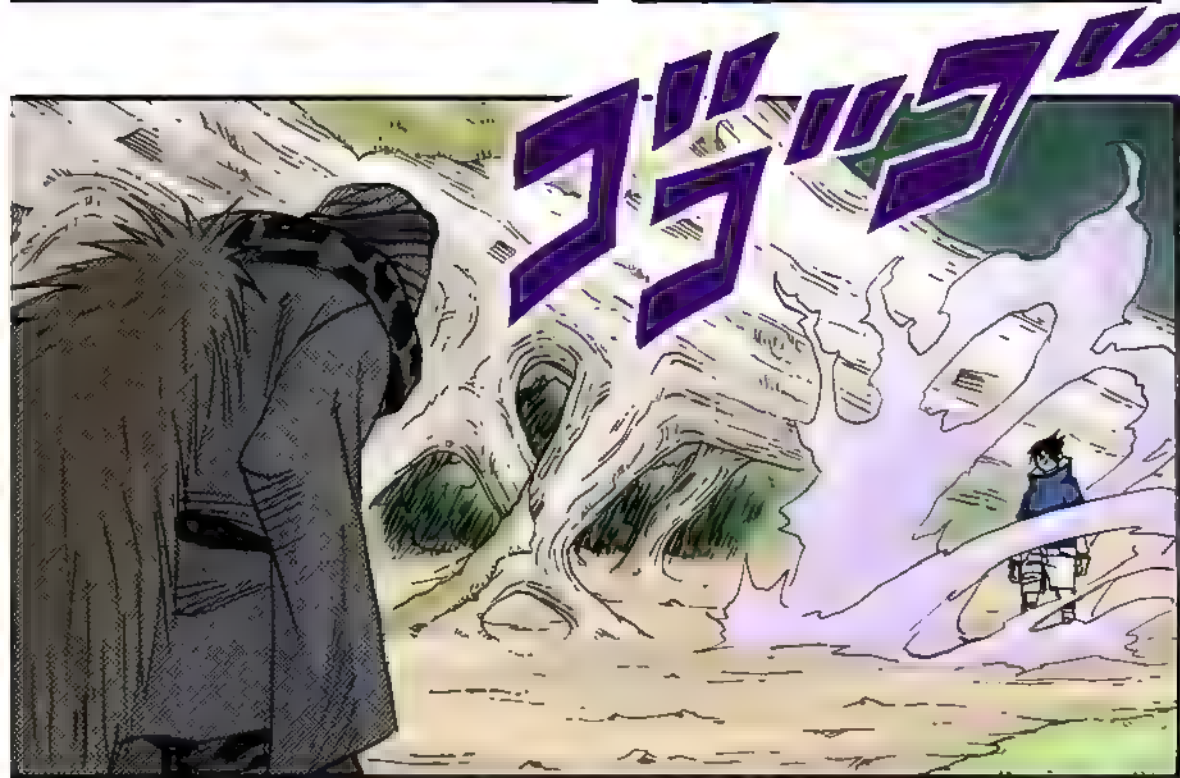
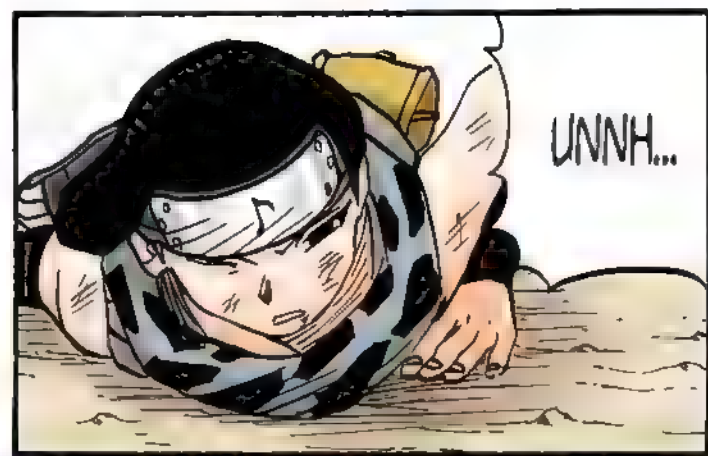
ON
THE PATH
I WALK, I
HAVE TO DO
WHATEVER
IT TAKES
TO GAIN
POWER...



HE'S
CHANNELLED
AND
MIMICKED
IT...
AND
ACTUALLY
MADE IT
TO HIS
FEET!

JUST AS I
THOUGHT...
THE SPELL MARK
ON HIS NECK
THAT LITTLE
SAKURA WAS
BLATHERING
ON ABOUT, IS
THE MARK OF
THE CURSE HE
WAS PLACED
UNDER...





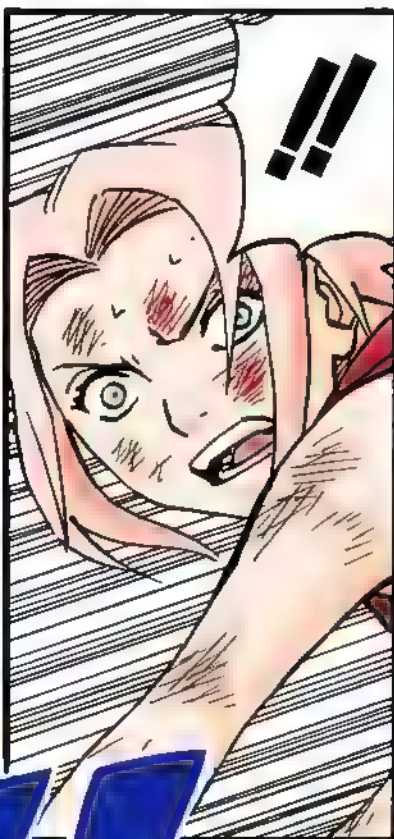


SNAP
OUT OF IT,
DOSU!
JUST
BECAUSE
HE REFUSES
TO DIE...

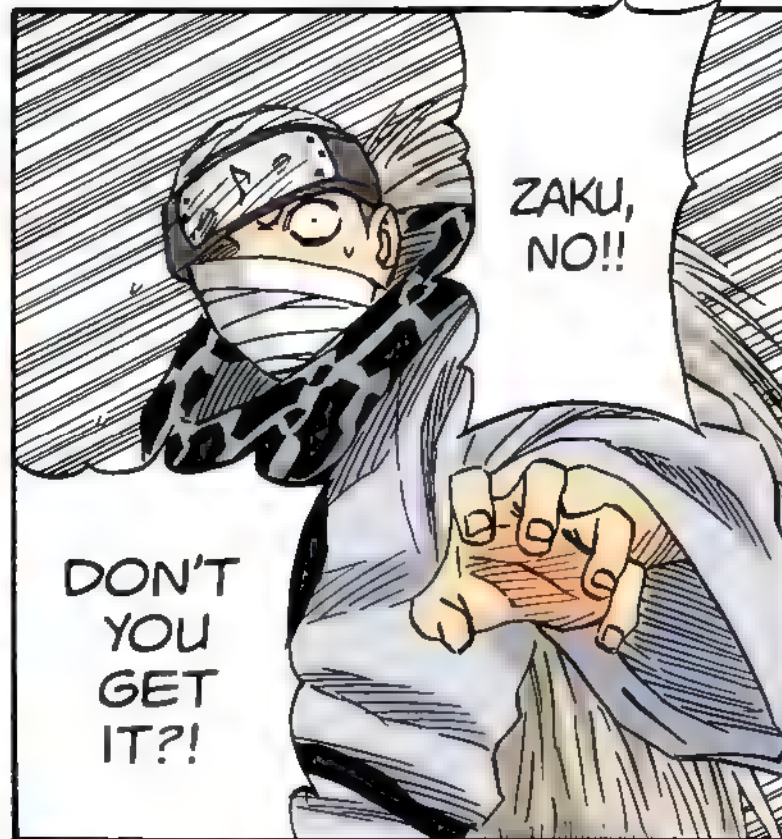


TOO
LARGE
FOR HIS
BODY
TO
CONTAIN,
EVEN
AFTER
WE!

HIS
CHAKRA'S
IMMENSE!!

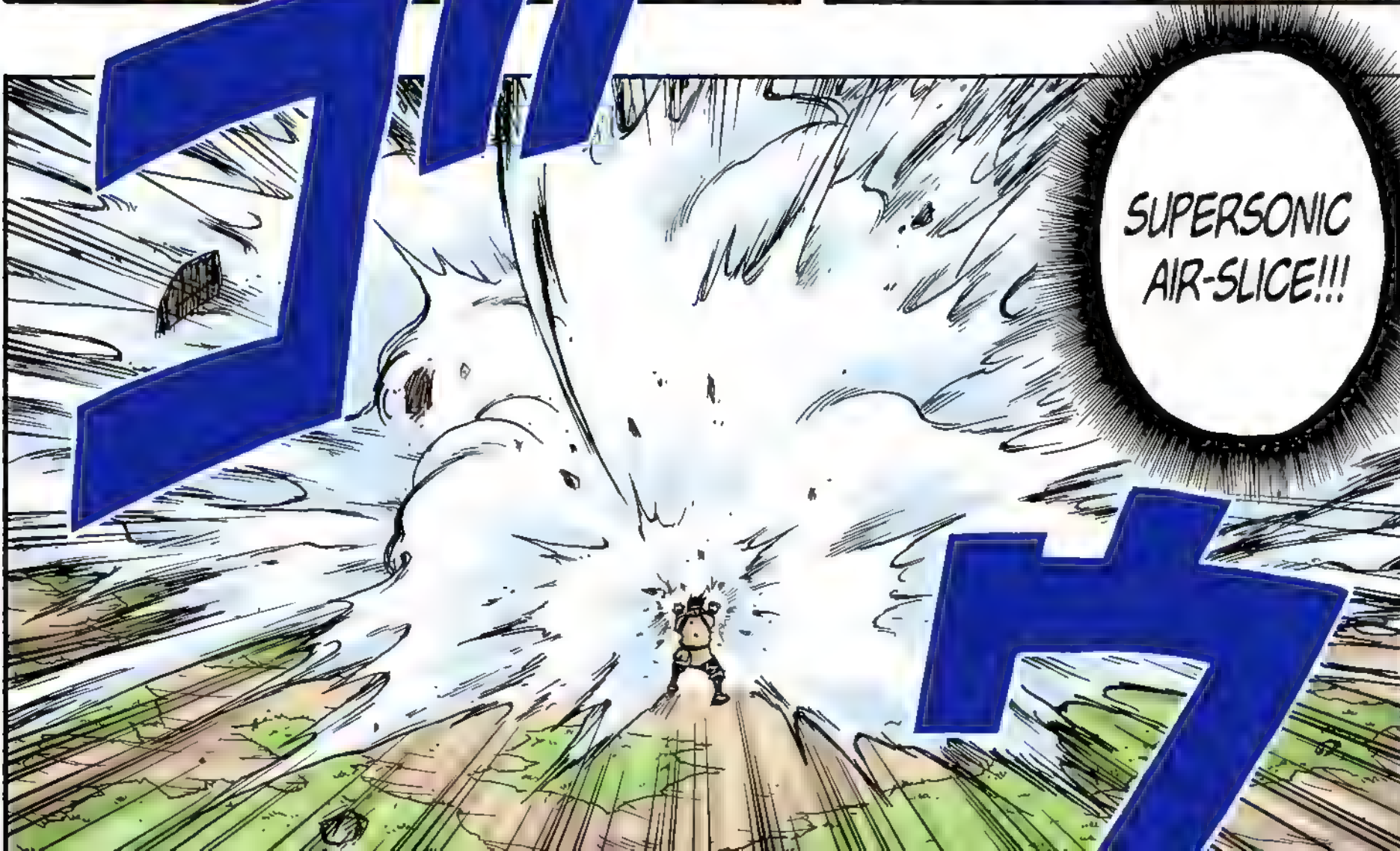


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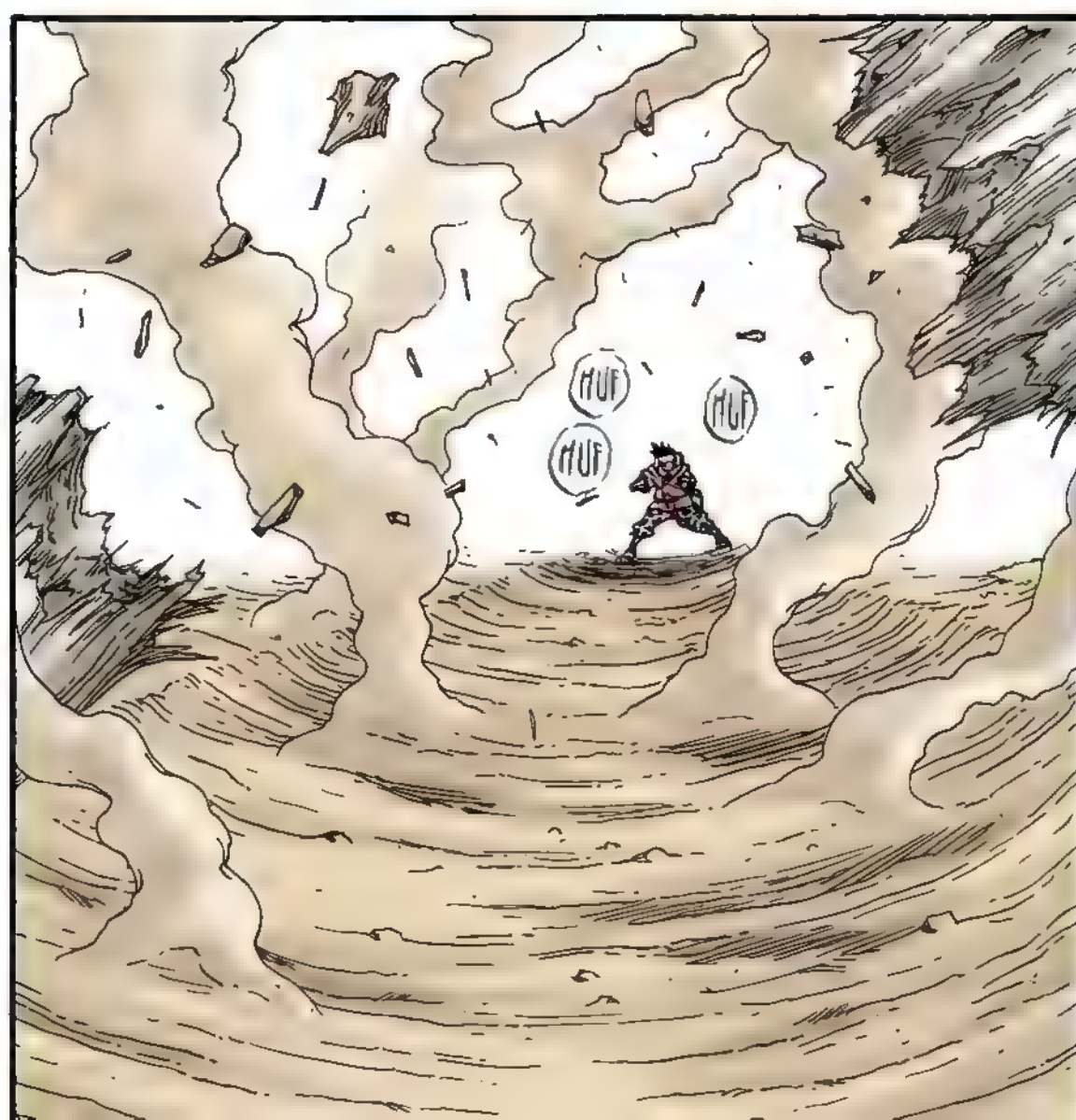
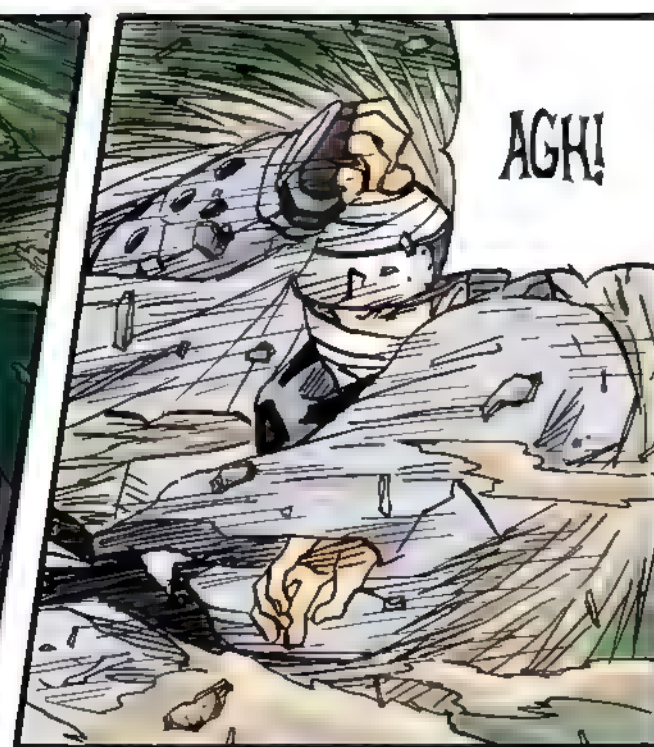
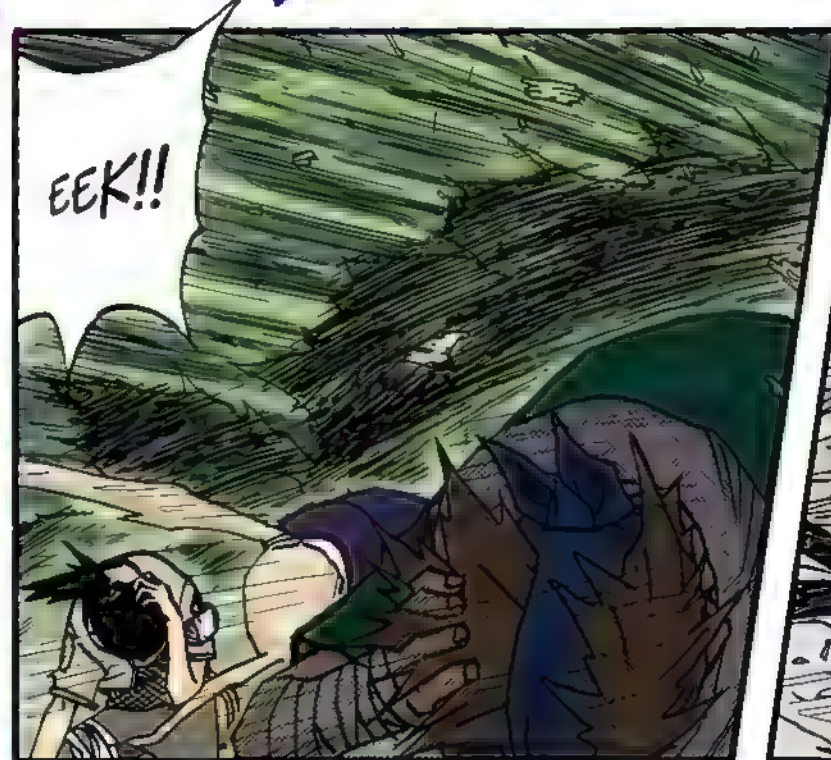
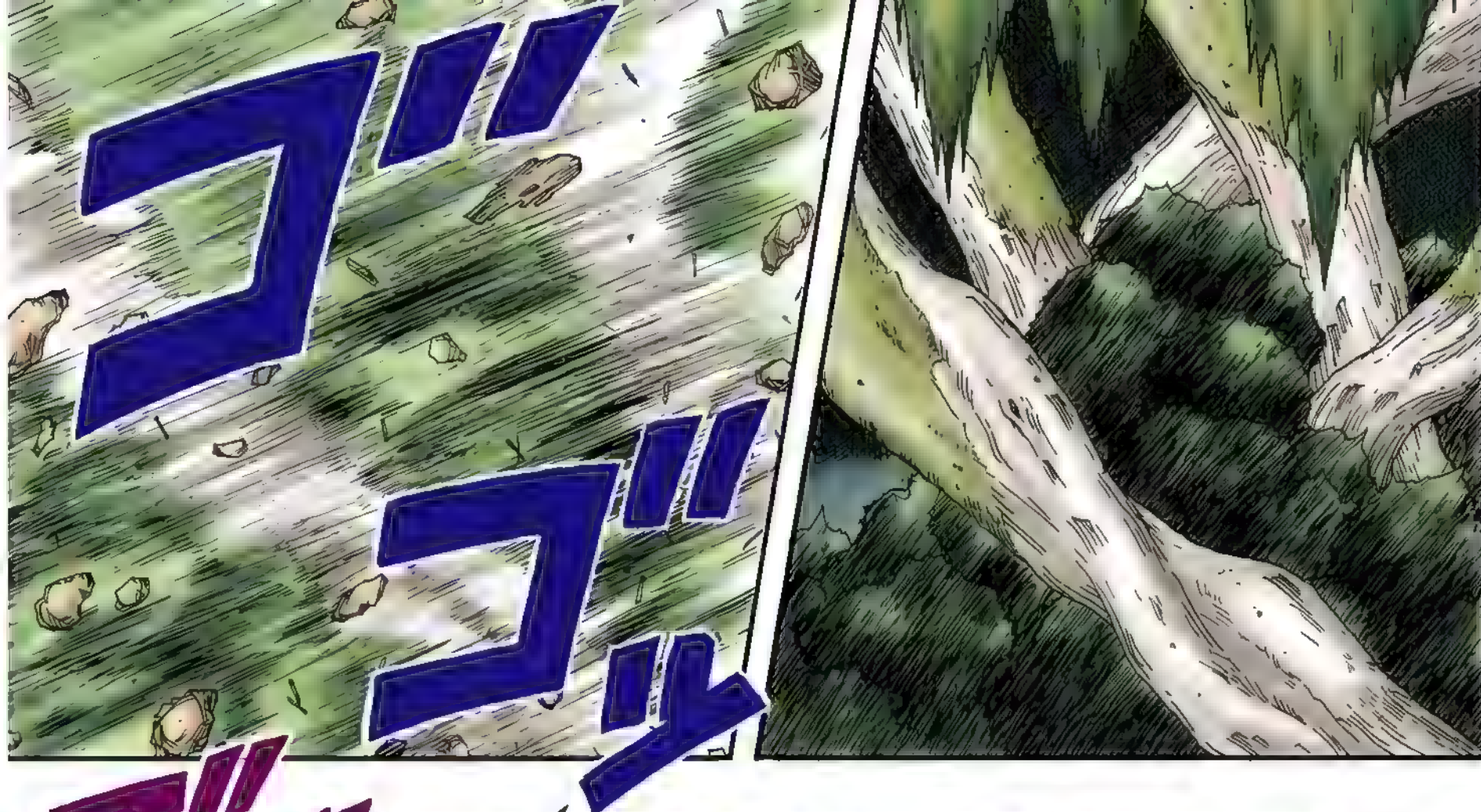


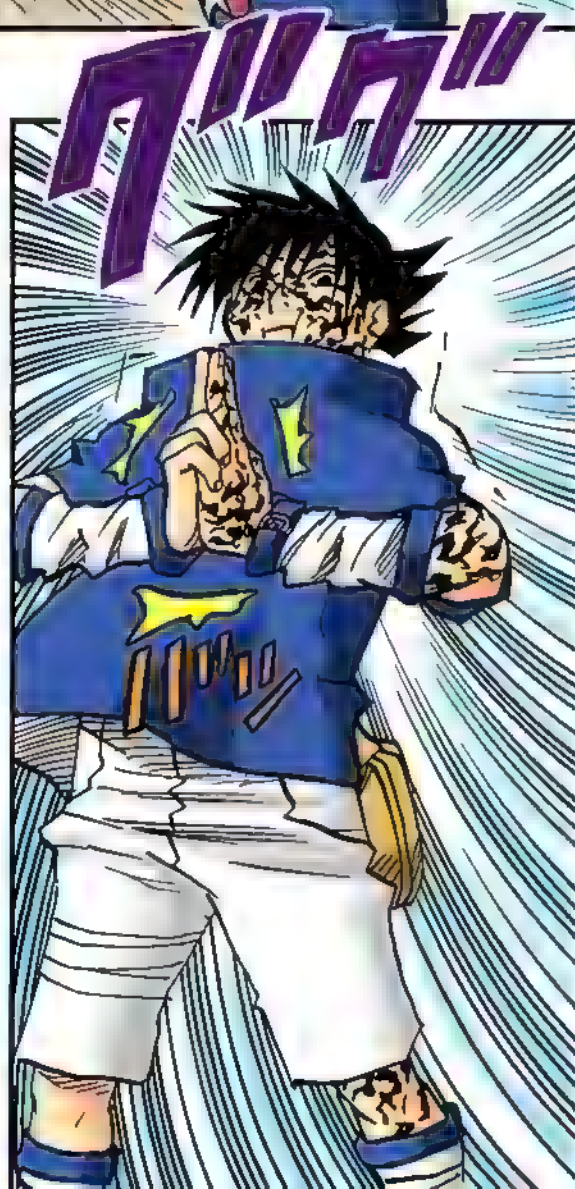
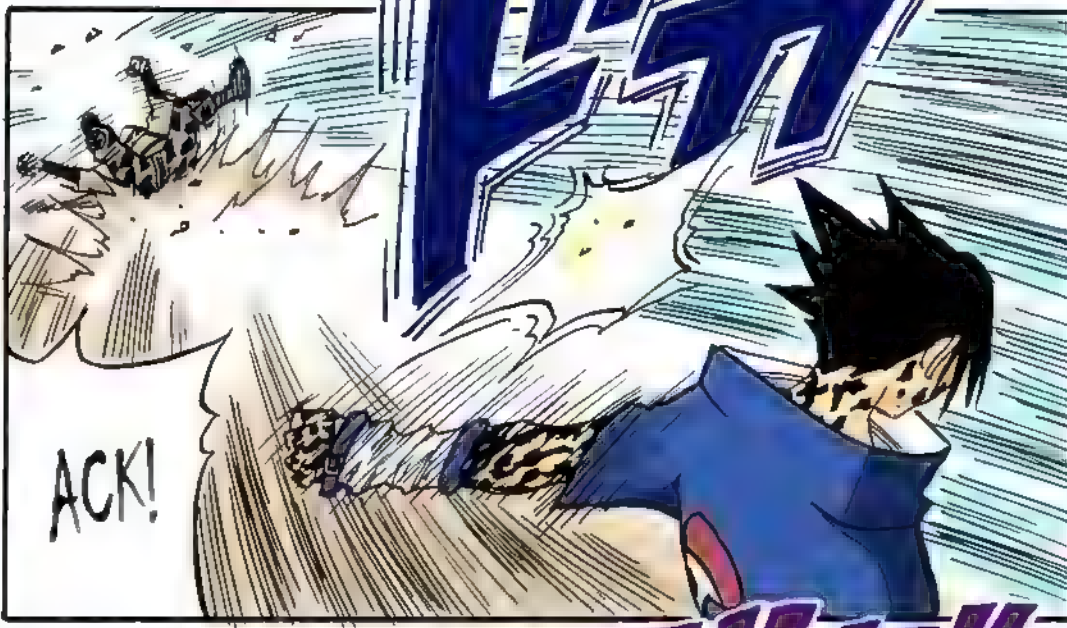
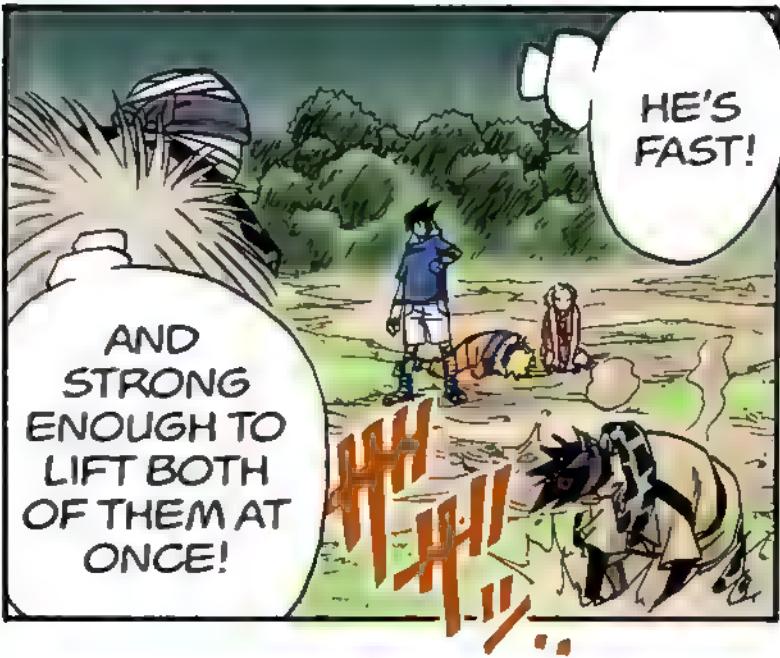
ZAKU,
NO!!

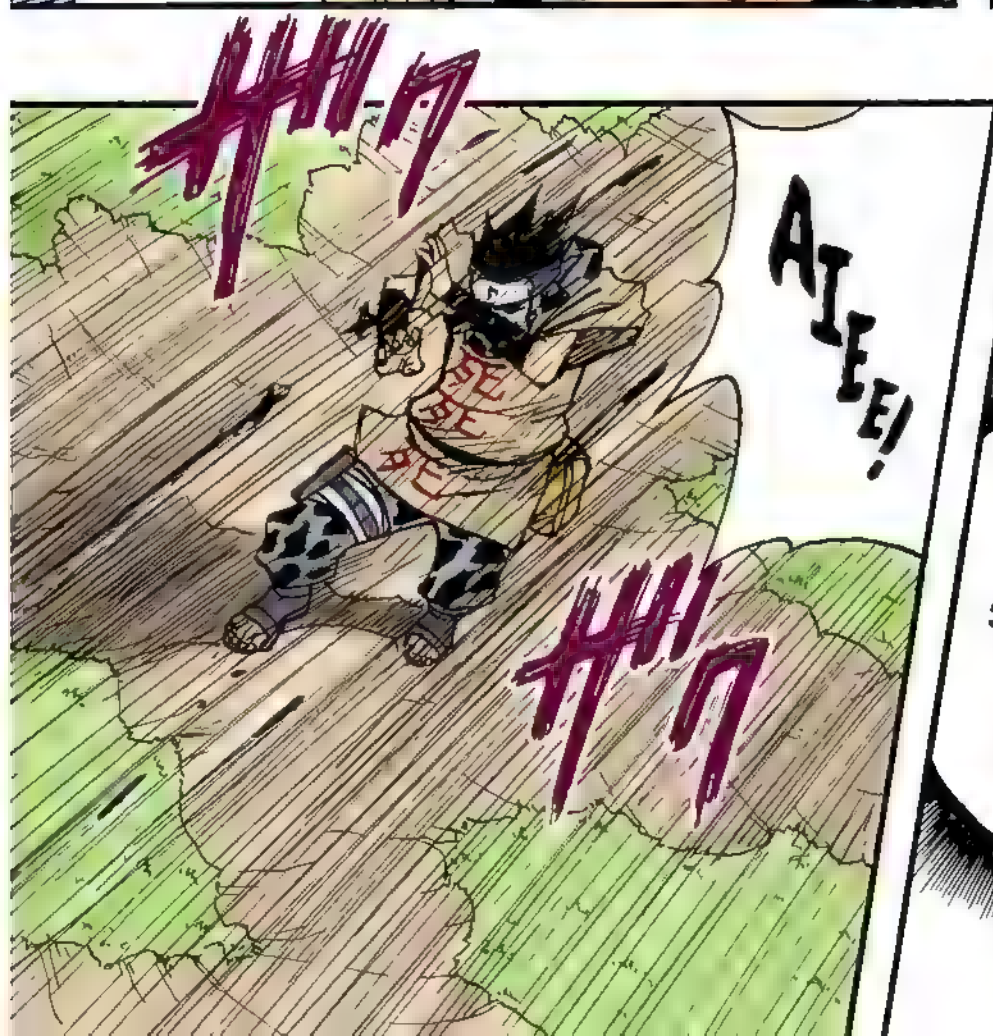
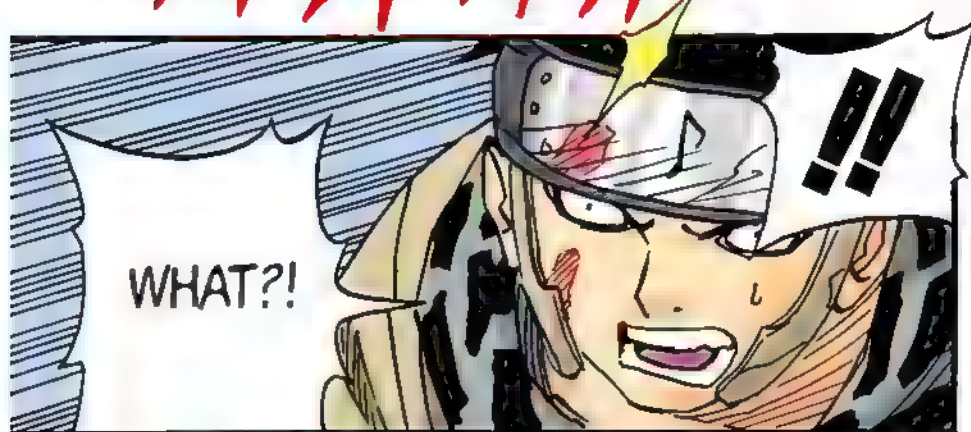
DON'T
YOU
GET
IT?!

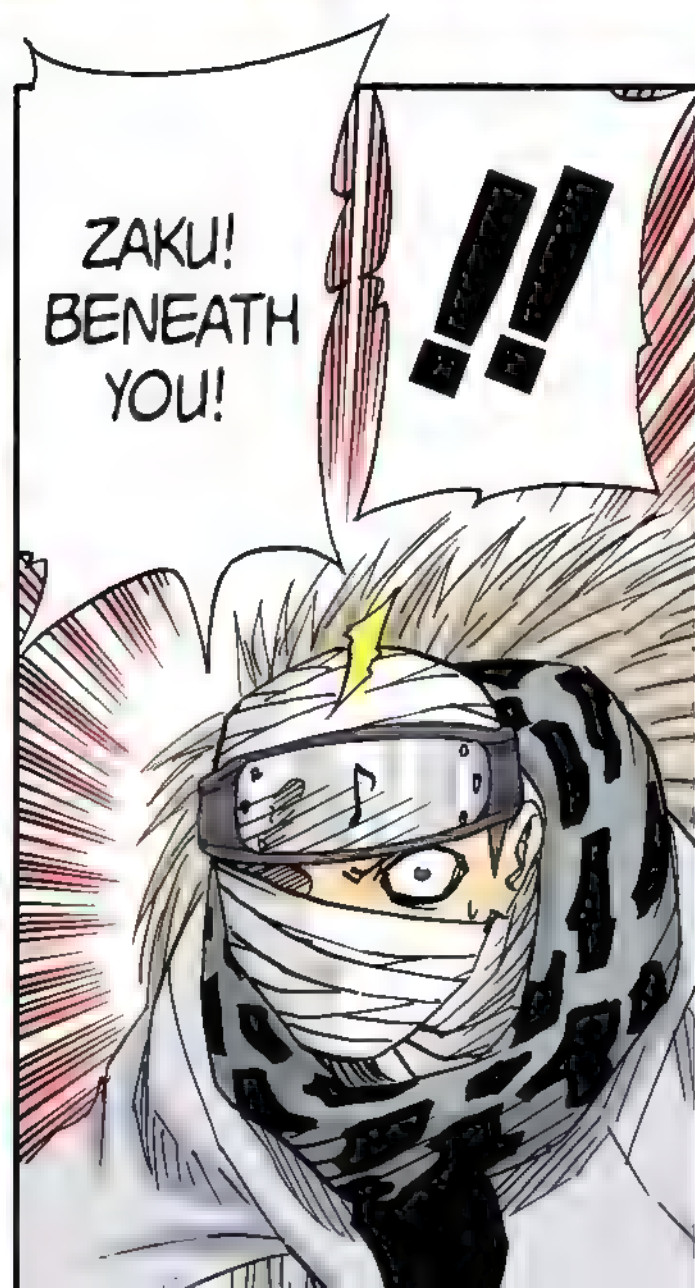


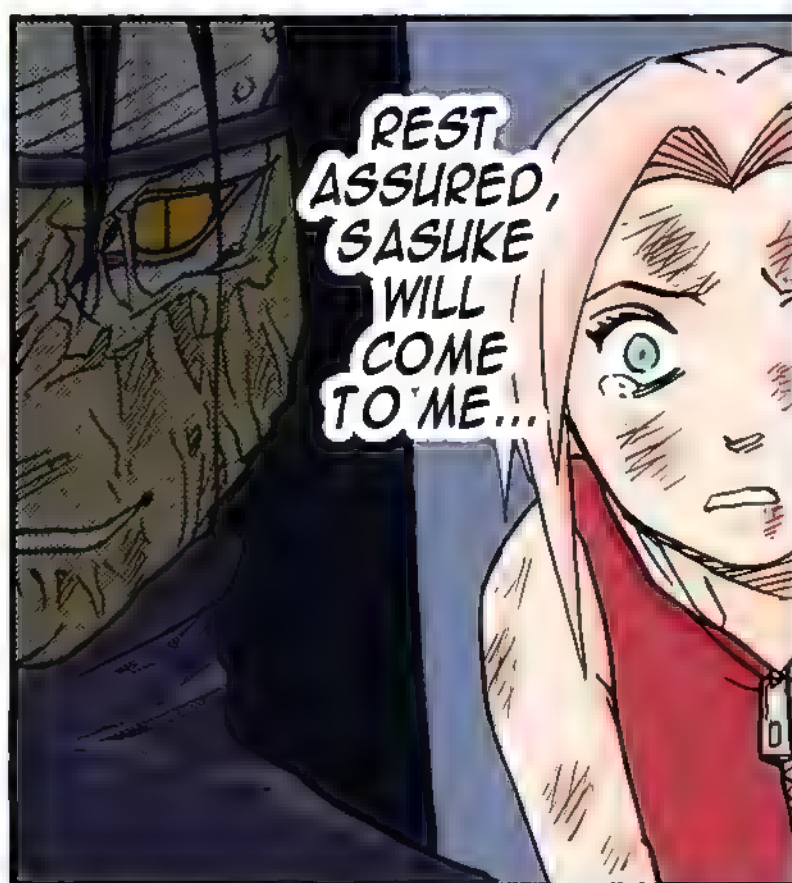
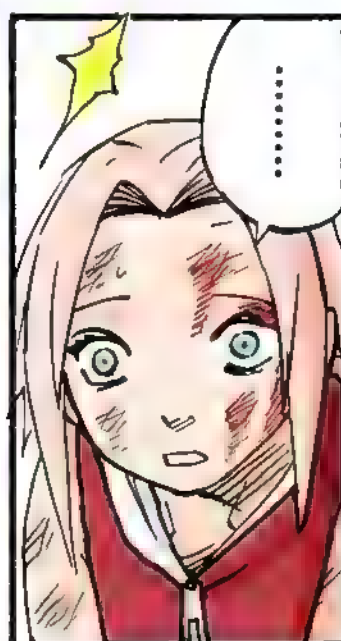
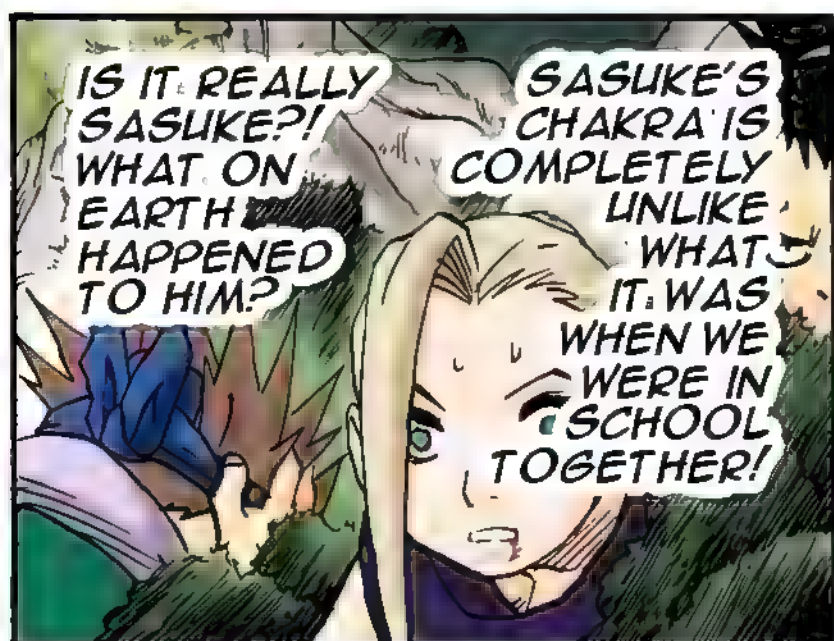
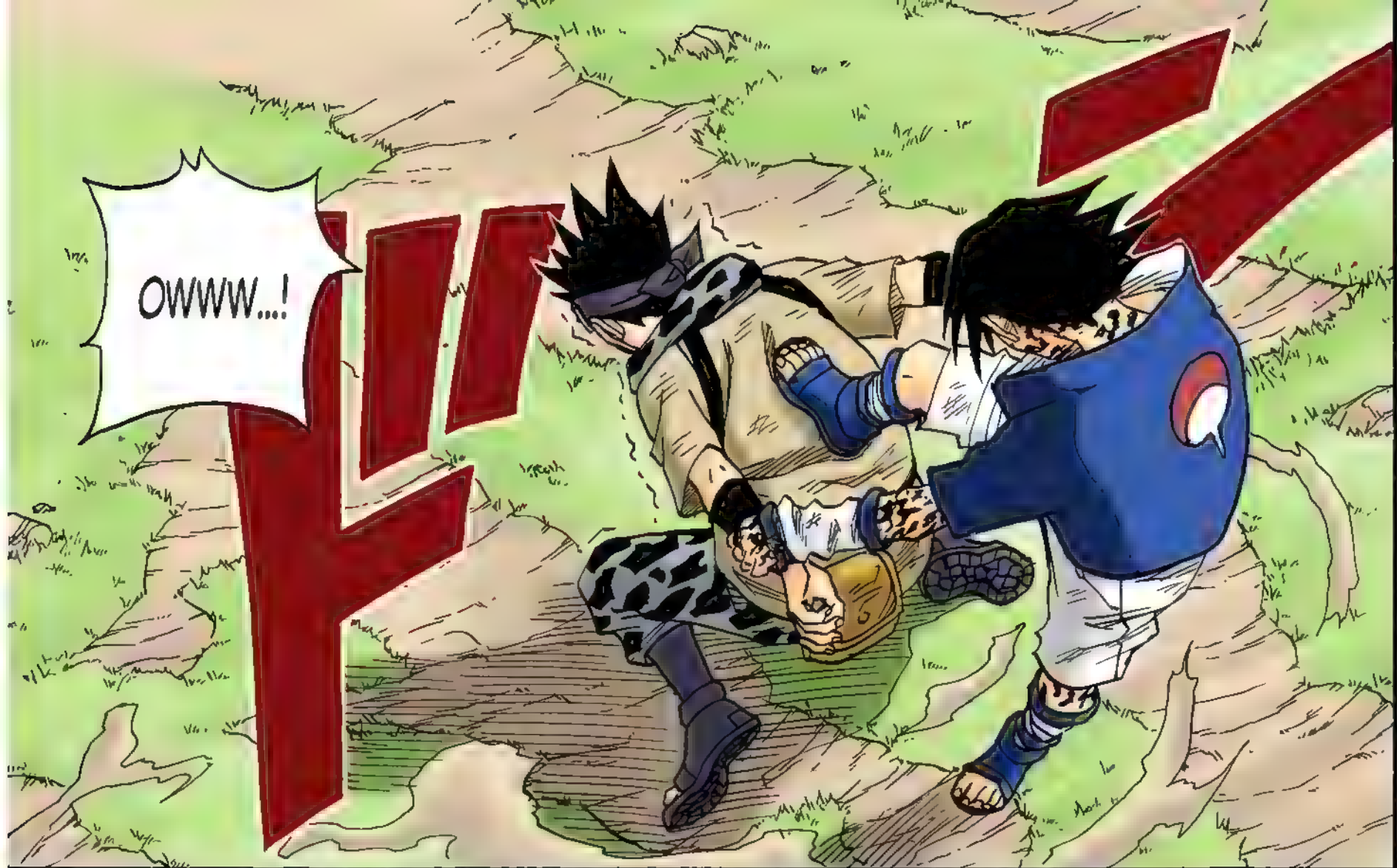
SUPERSONIC
AIR-SLICE!!!

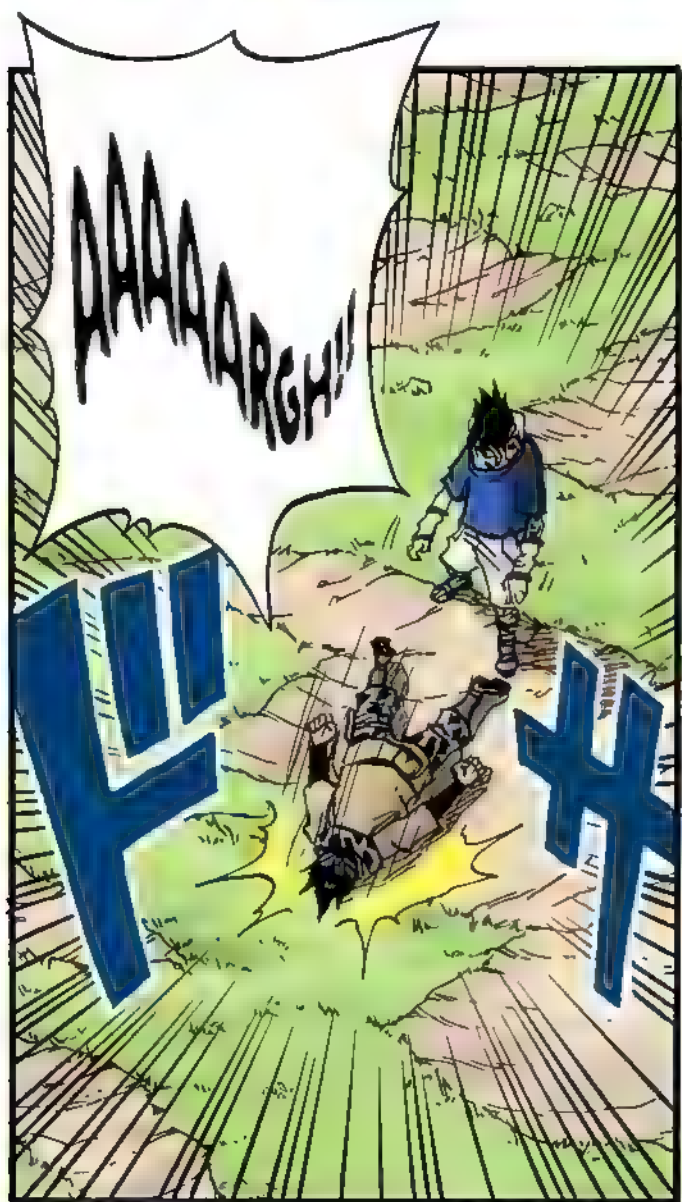
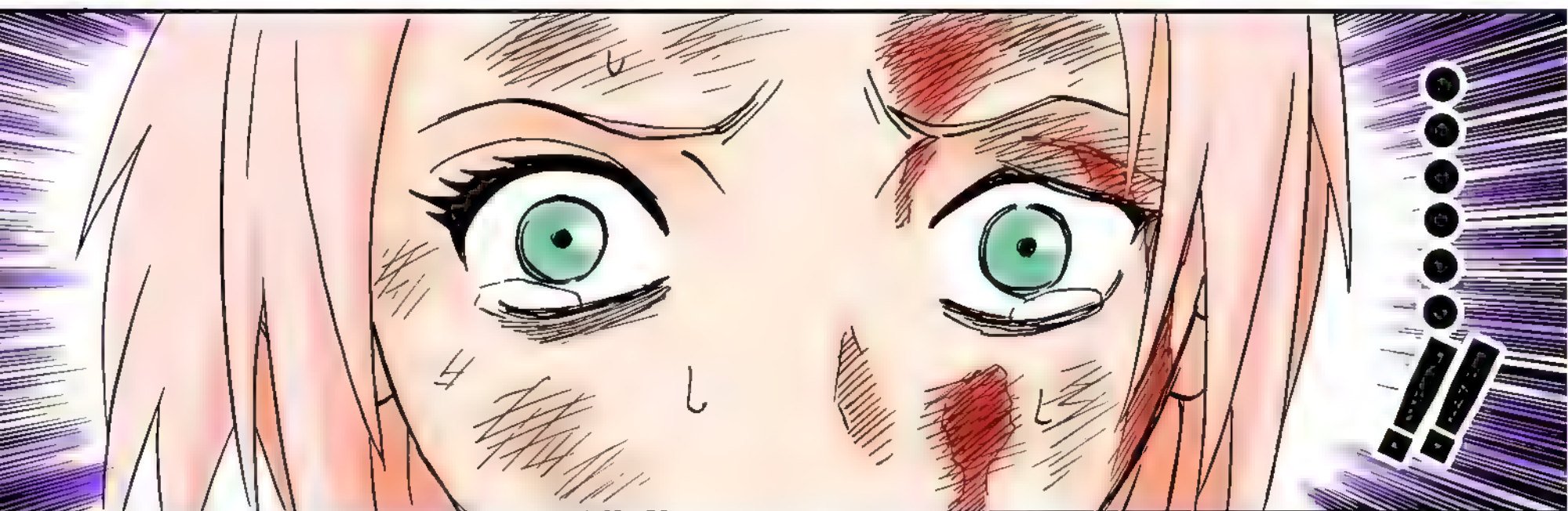


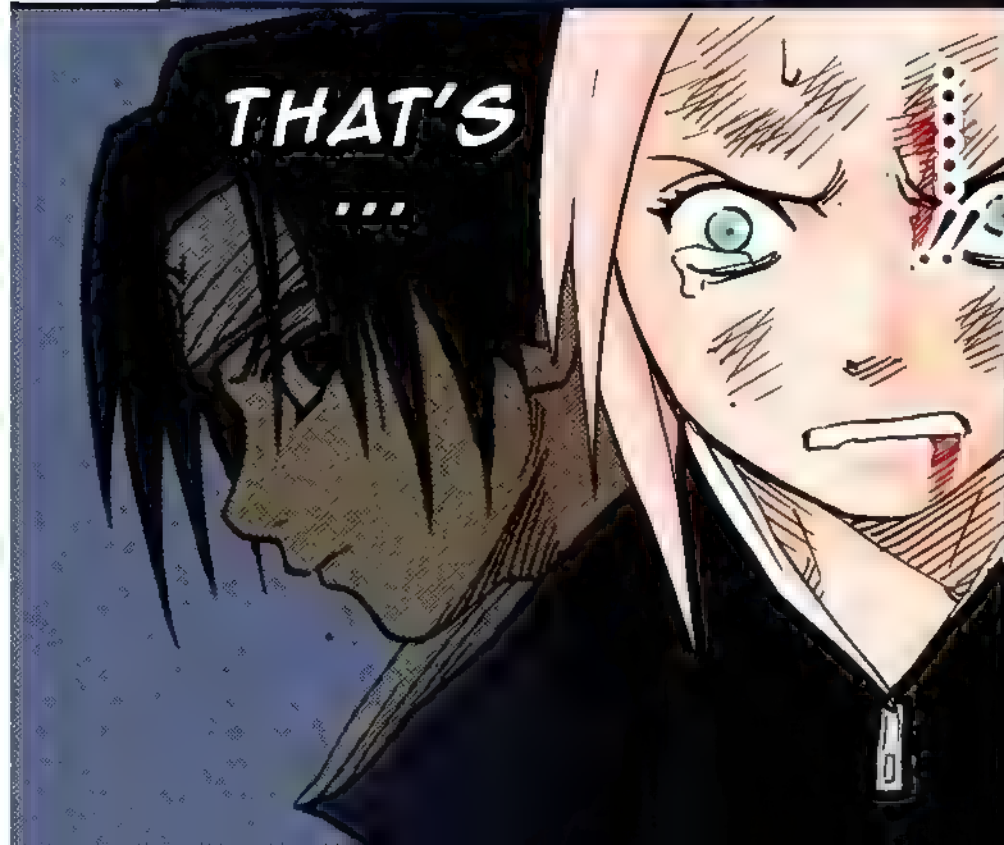
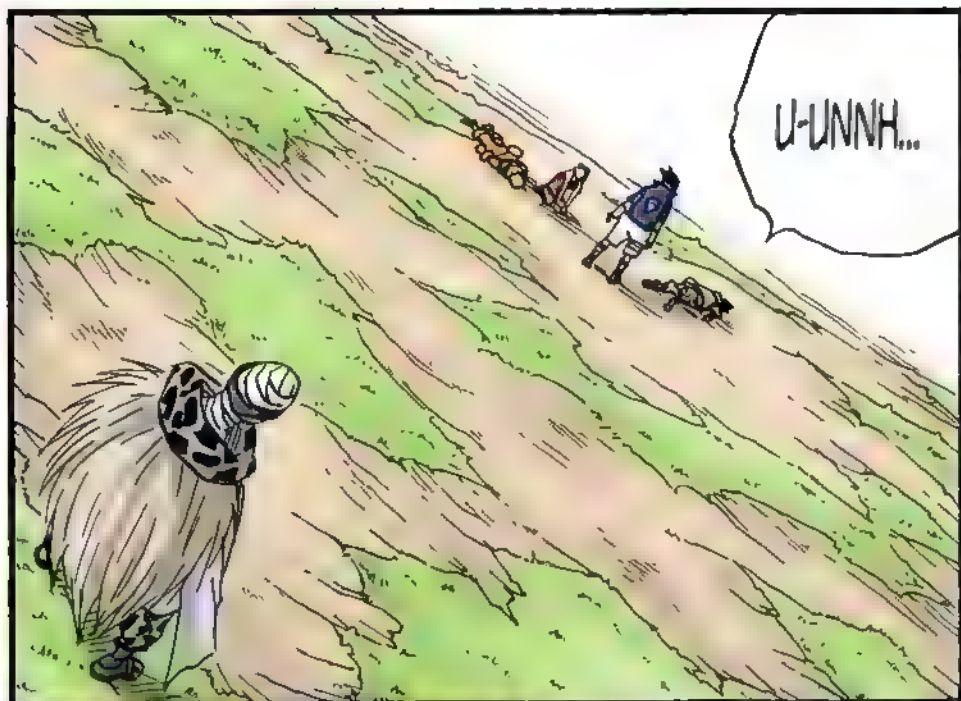
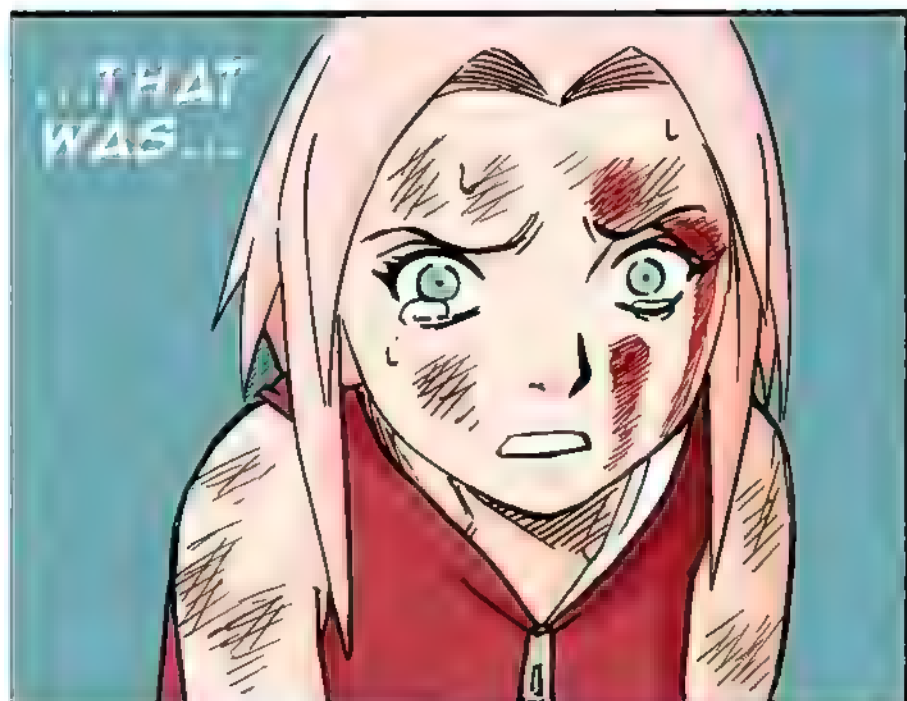
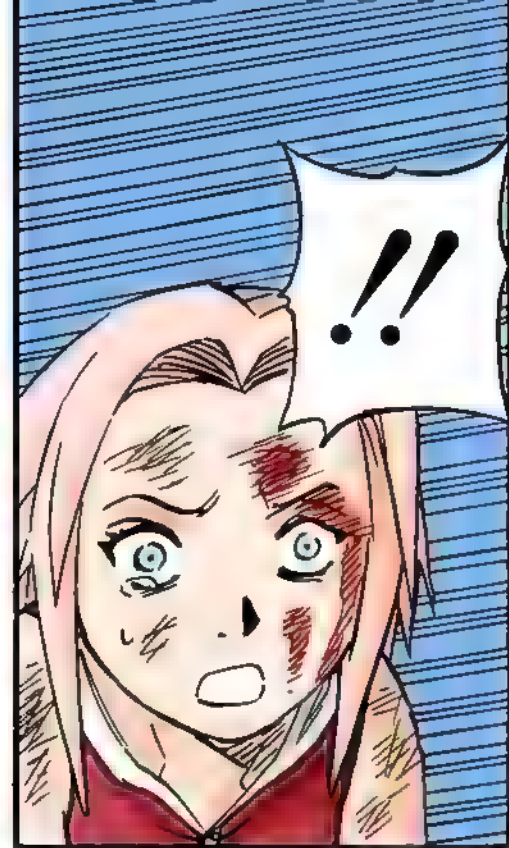
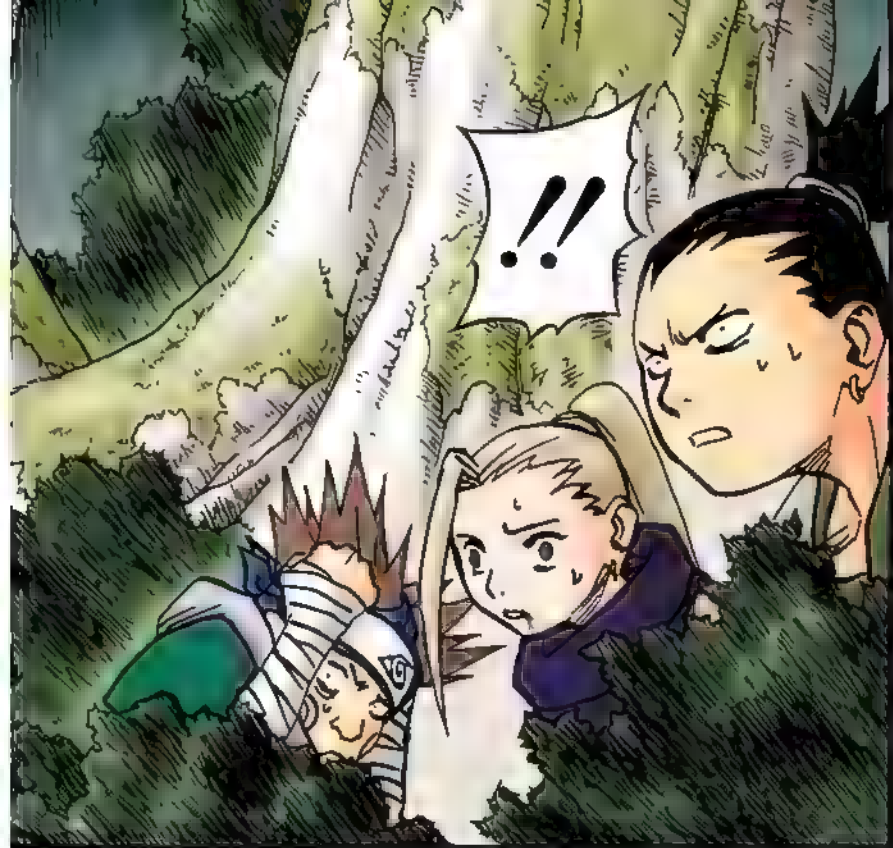


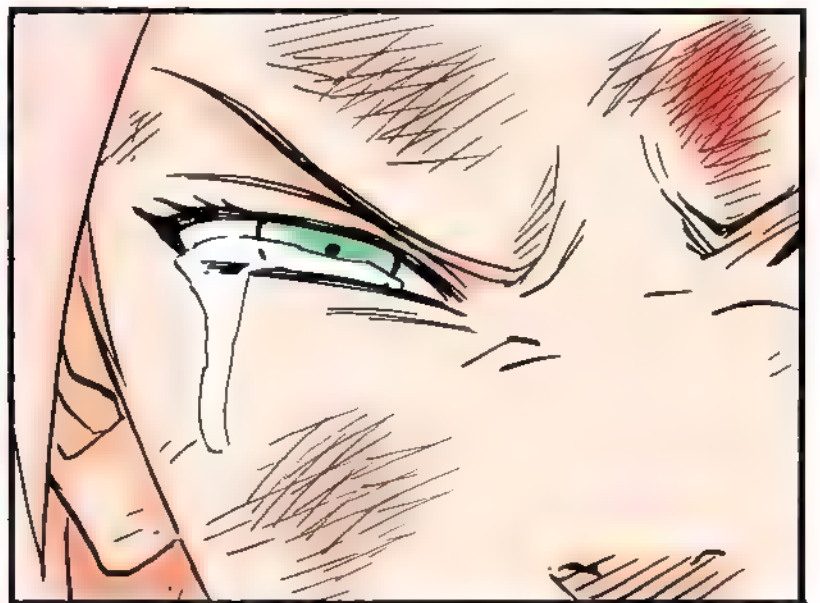
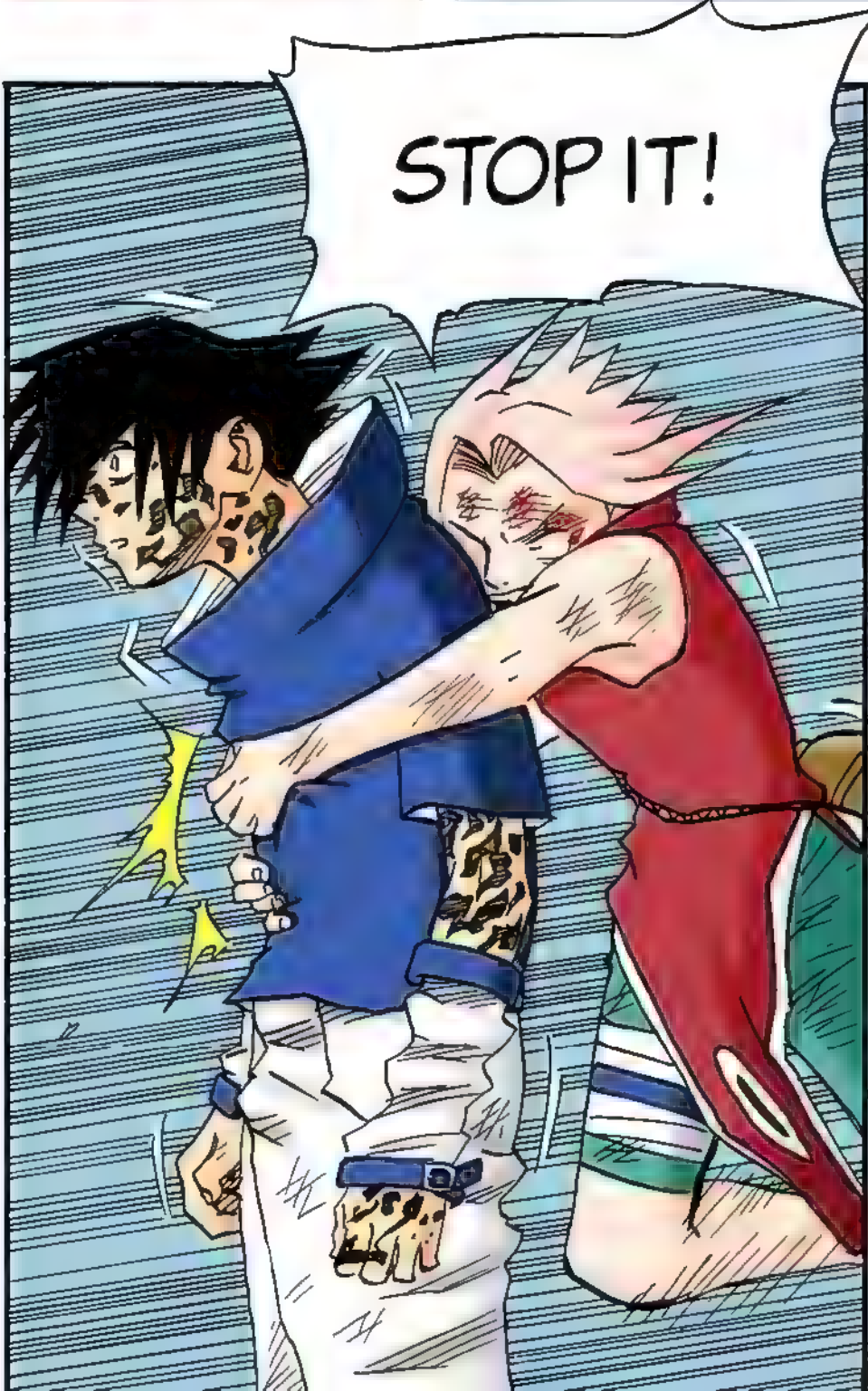
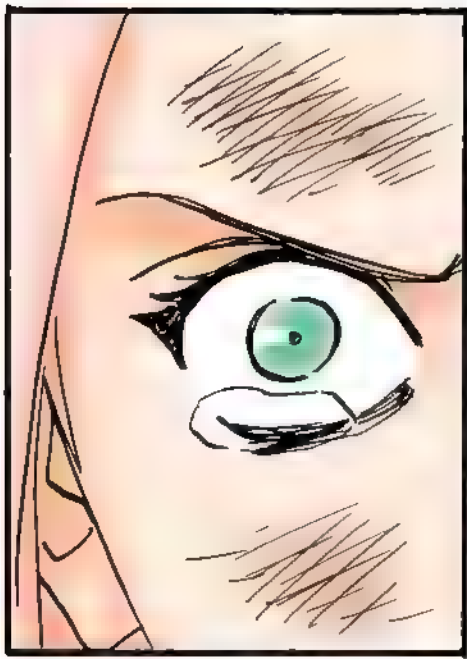
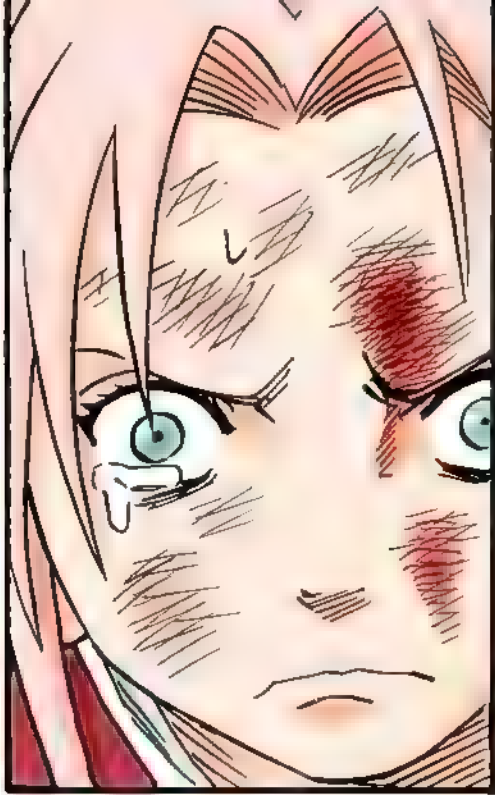


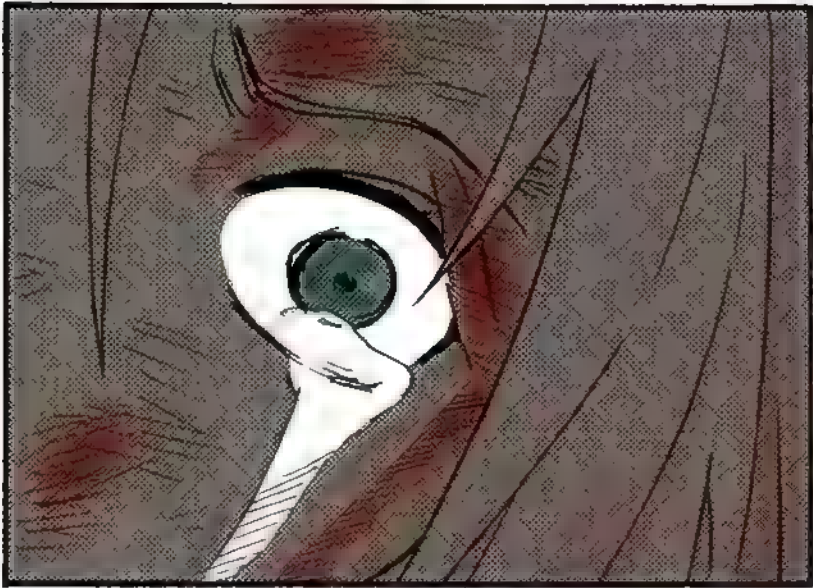




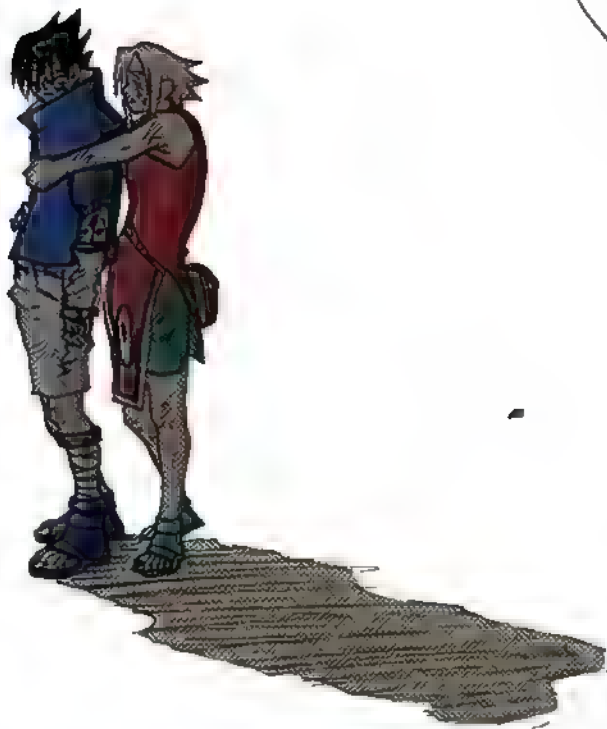




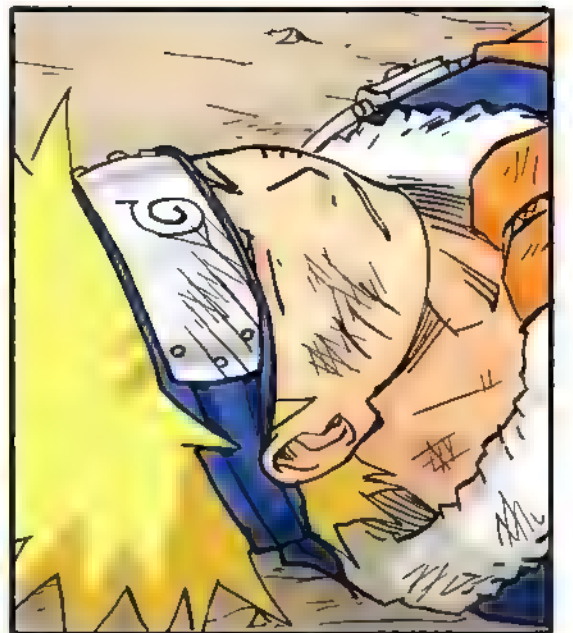
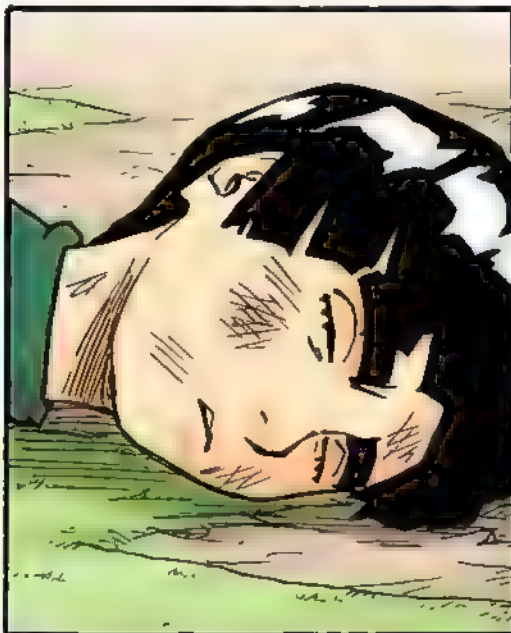
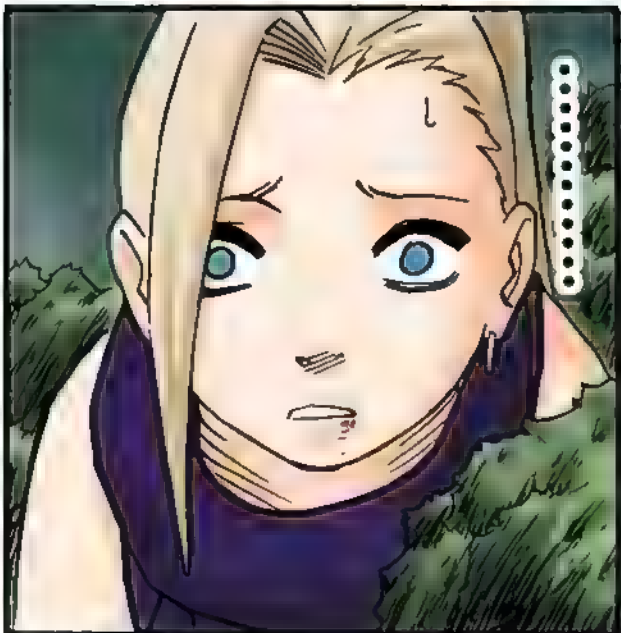


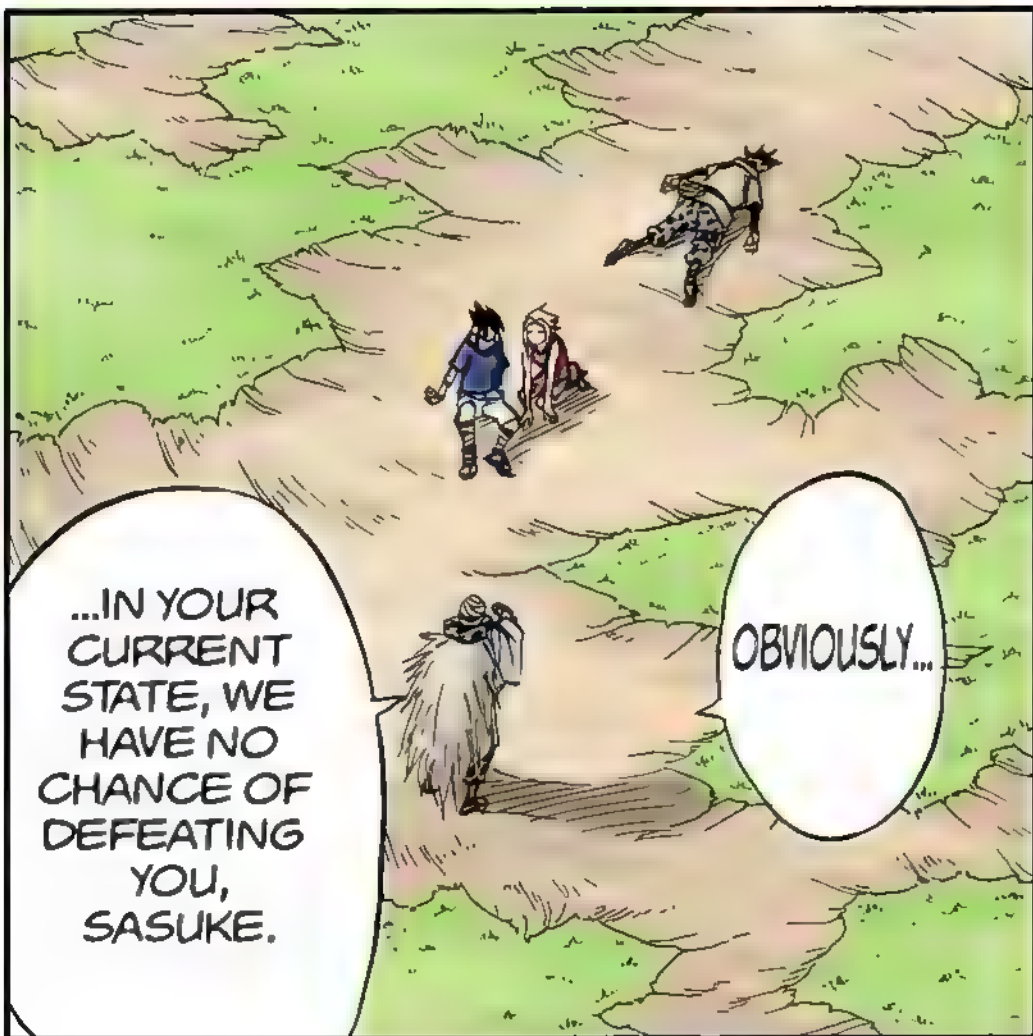
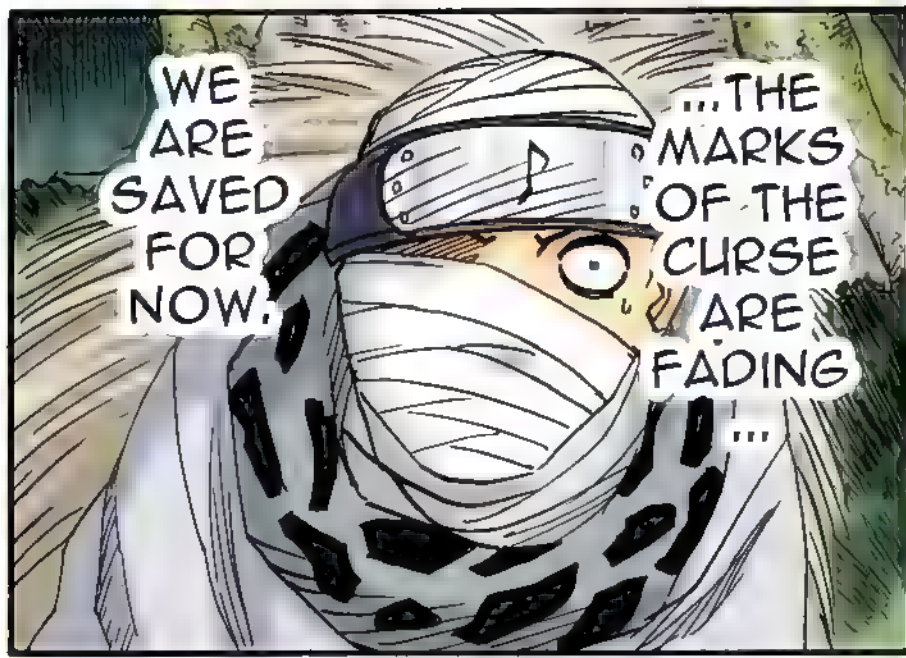
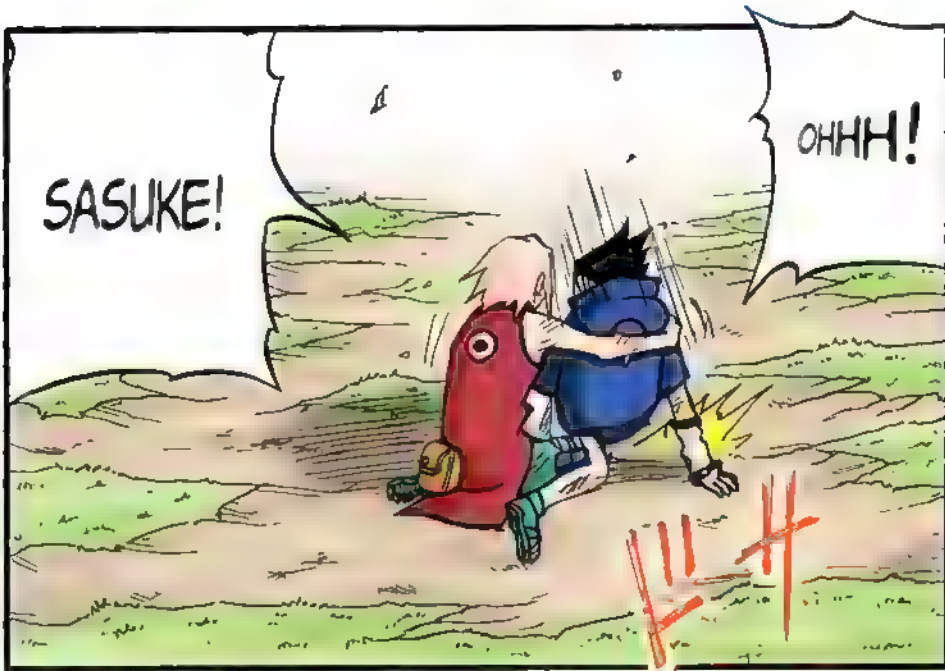
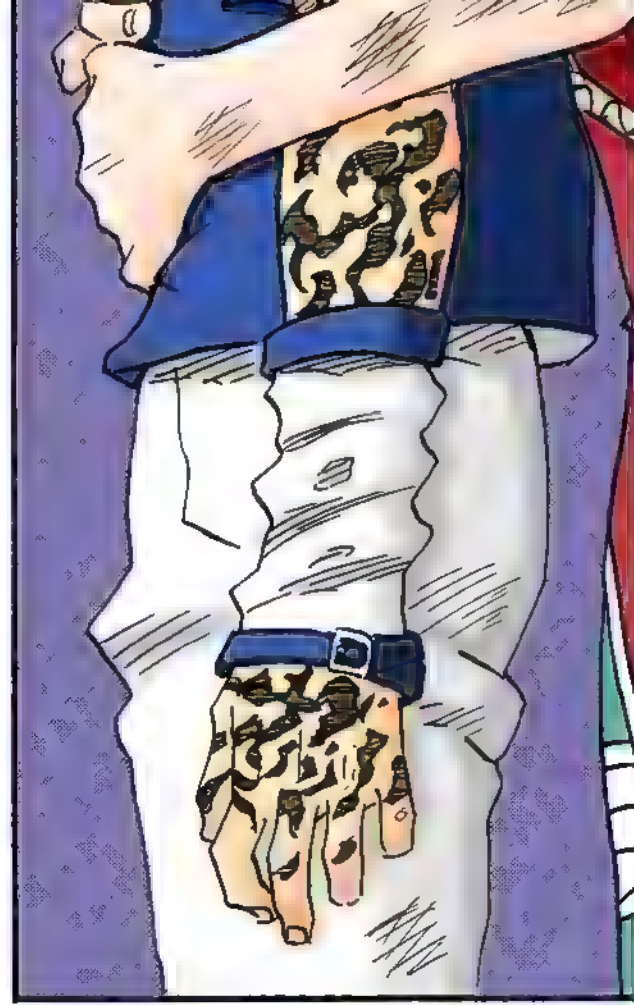
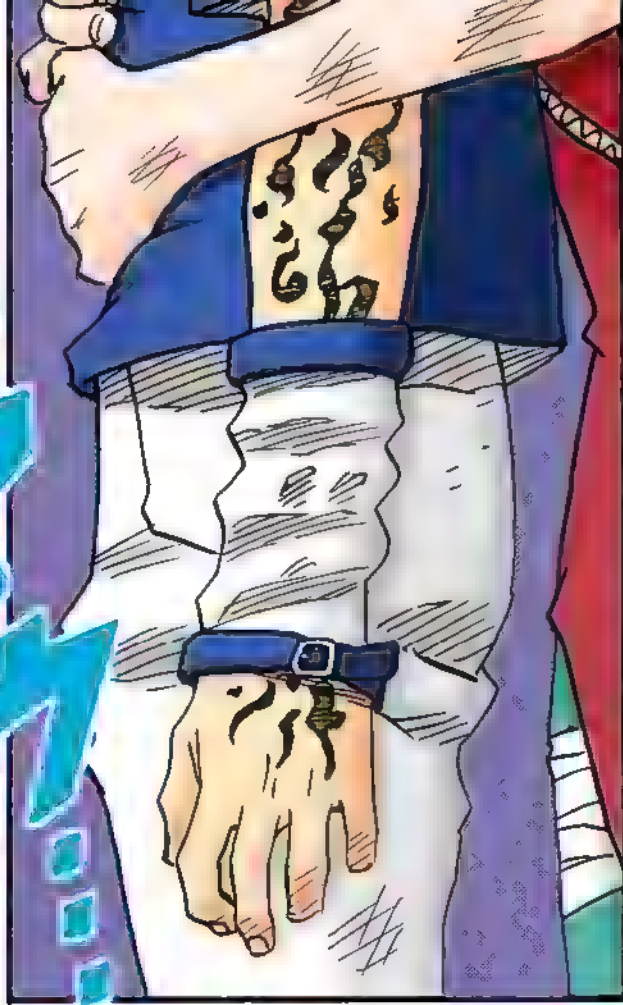
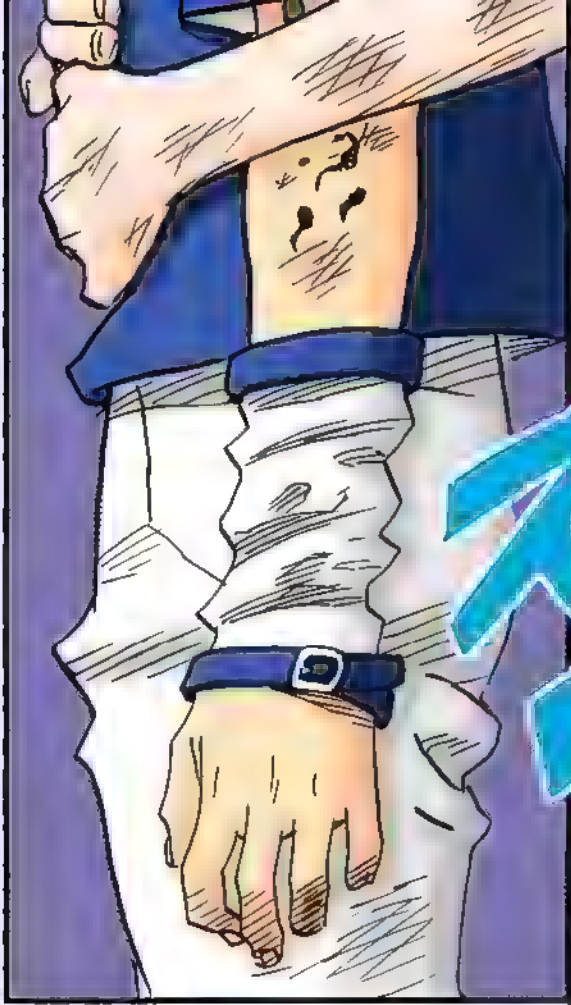


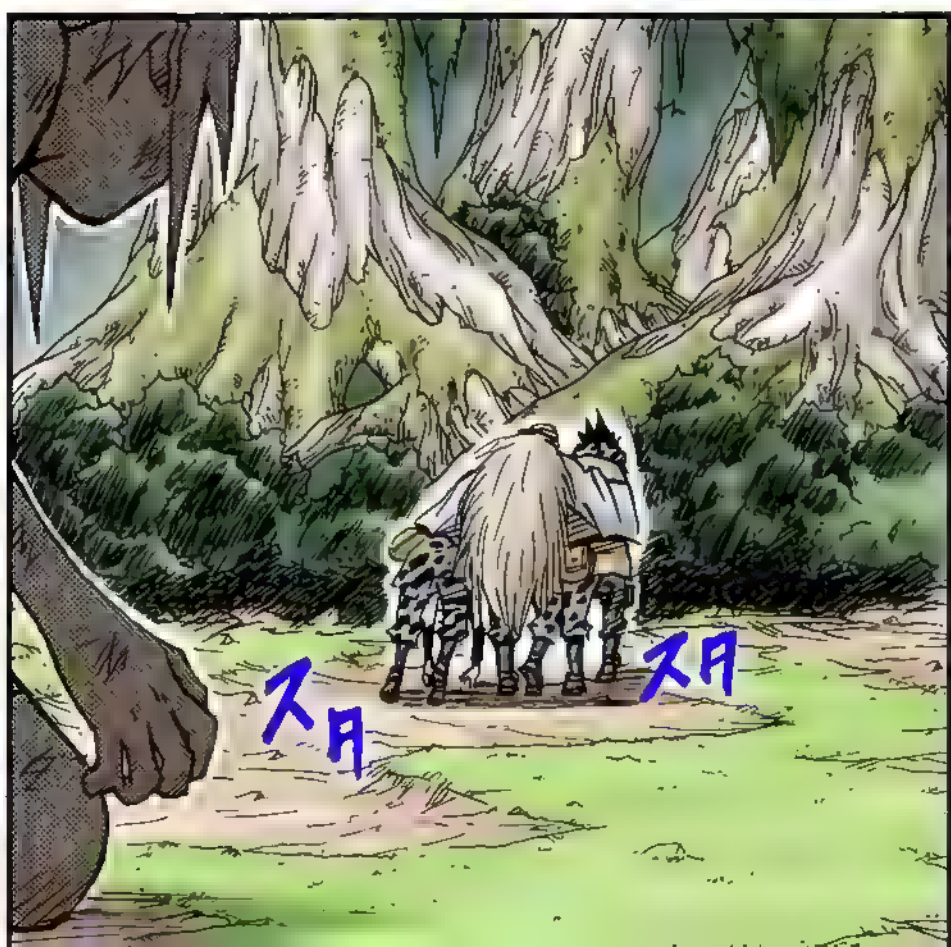
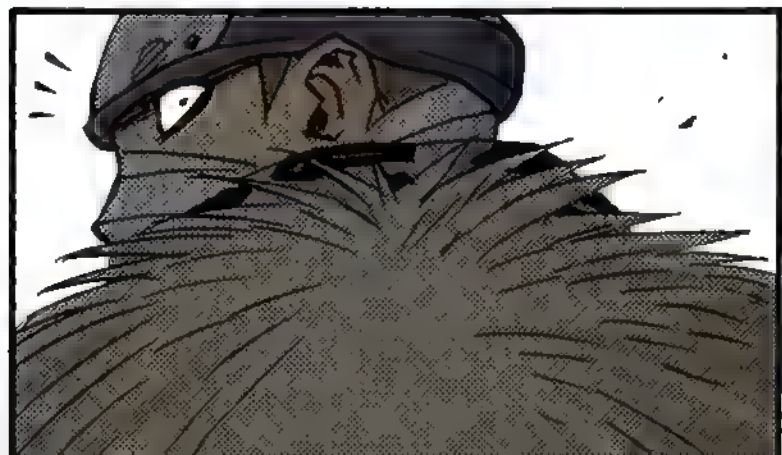
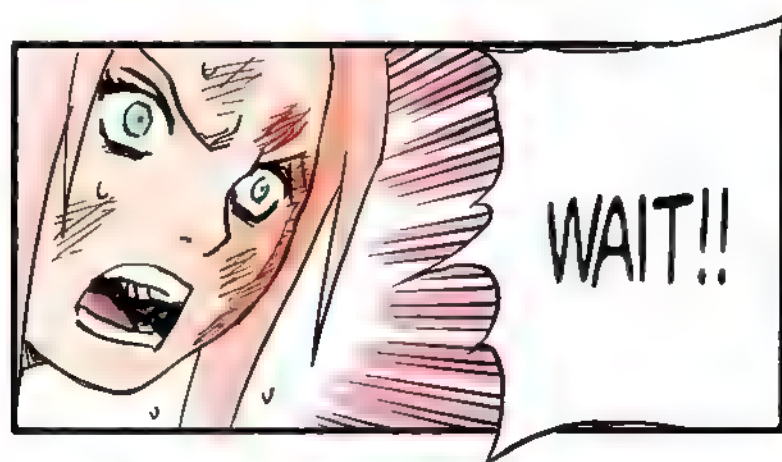
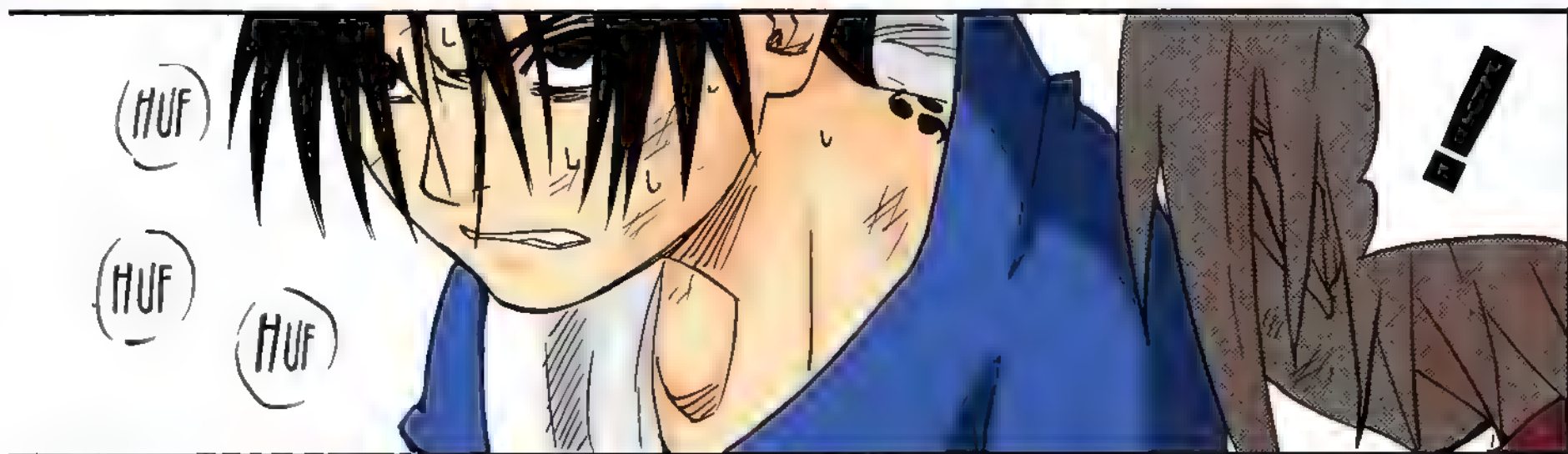
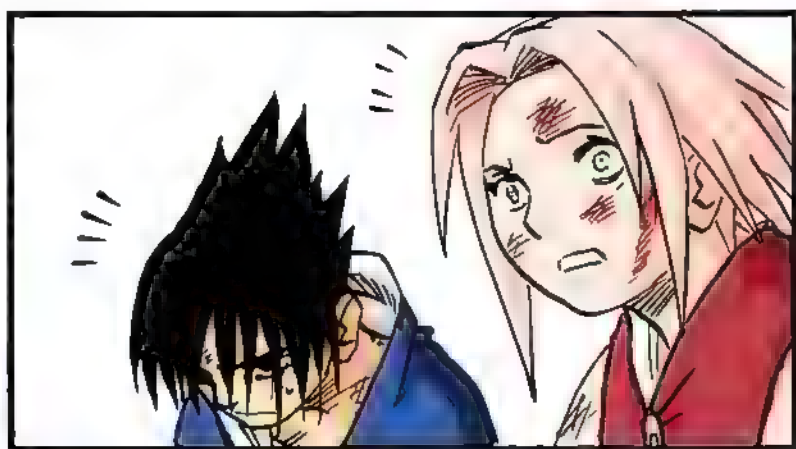
...PLEASE,
STOP...

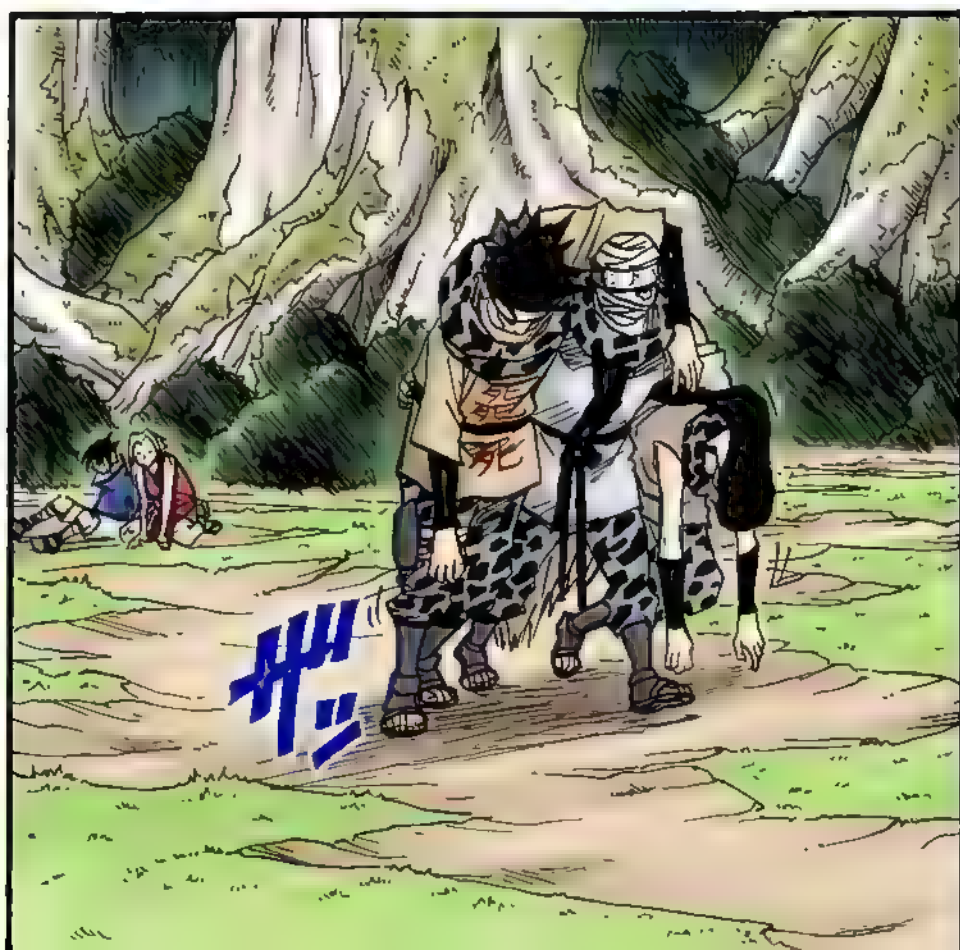
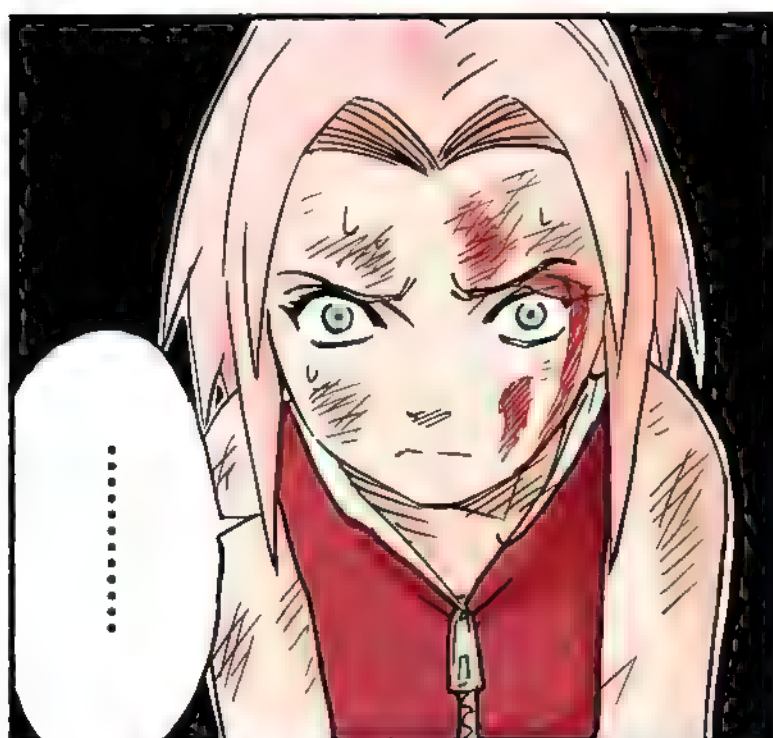
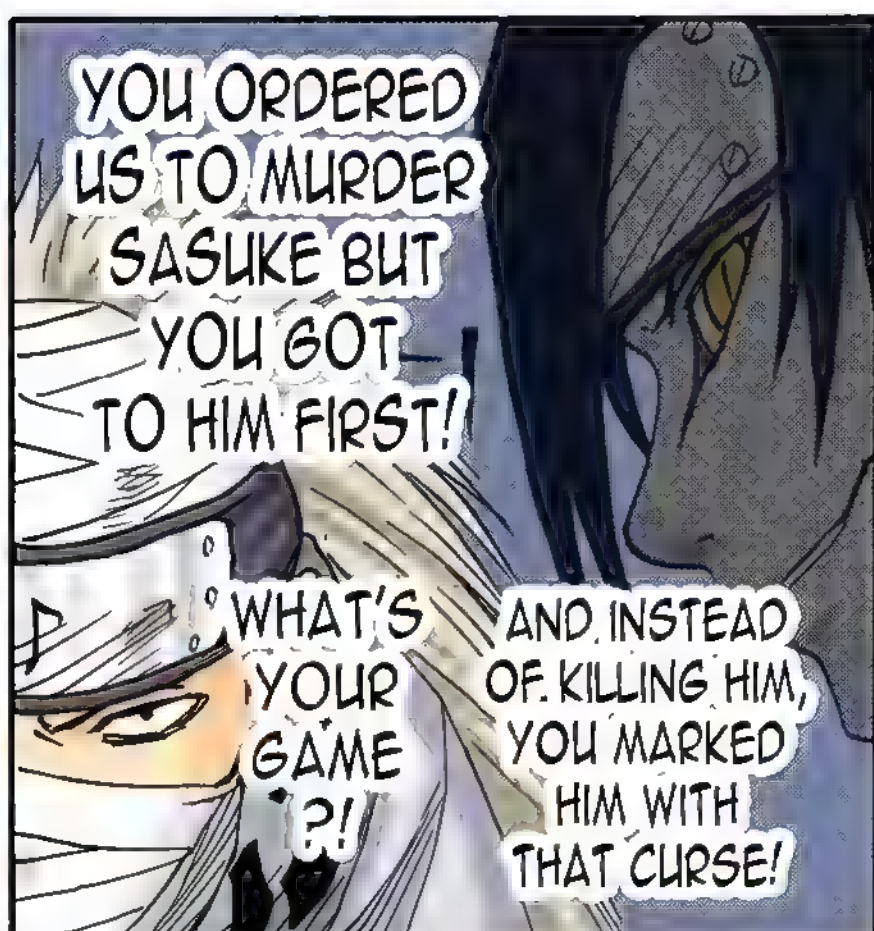
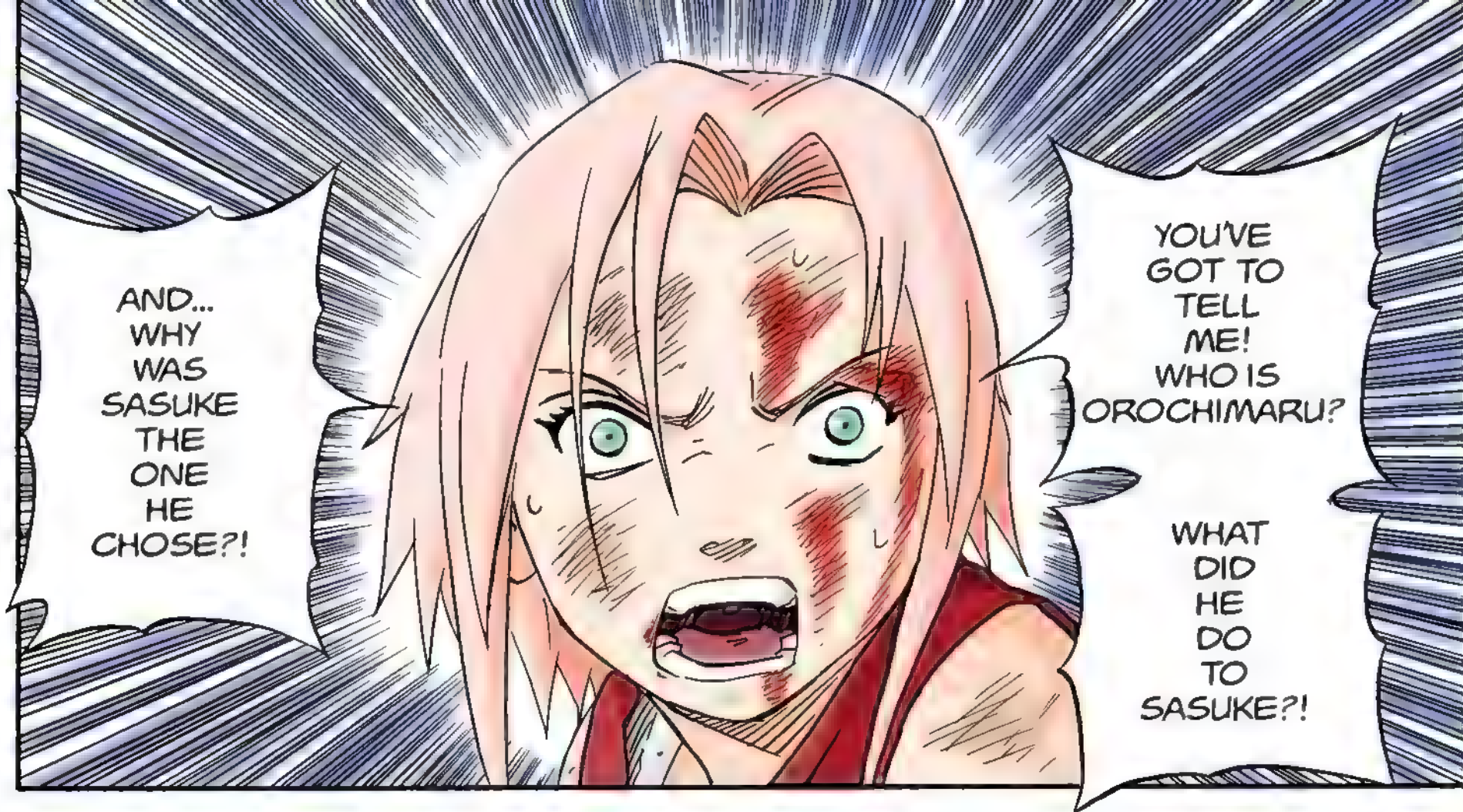


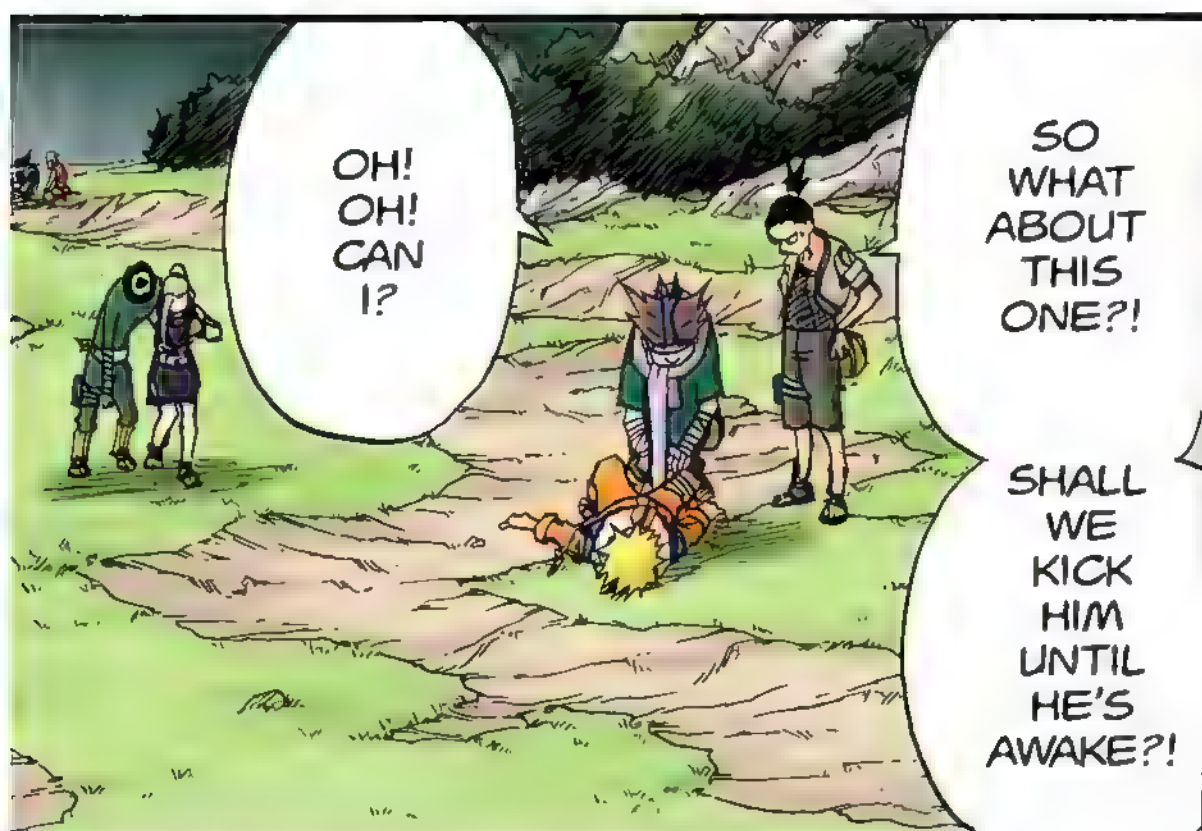
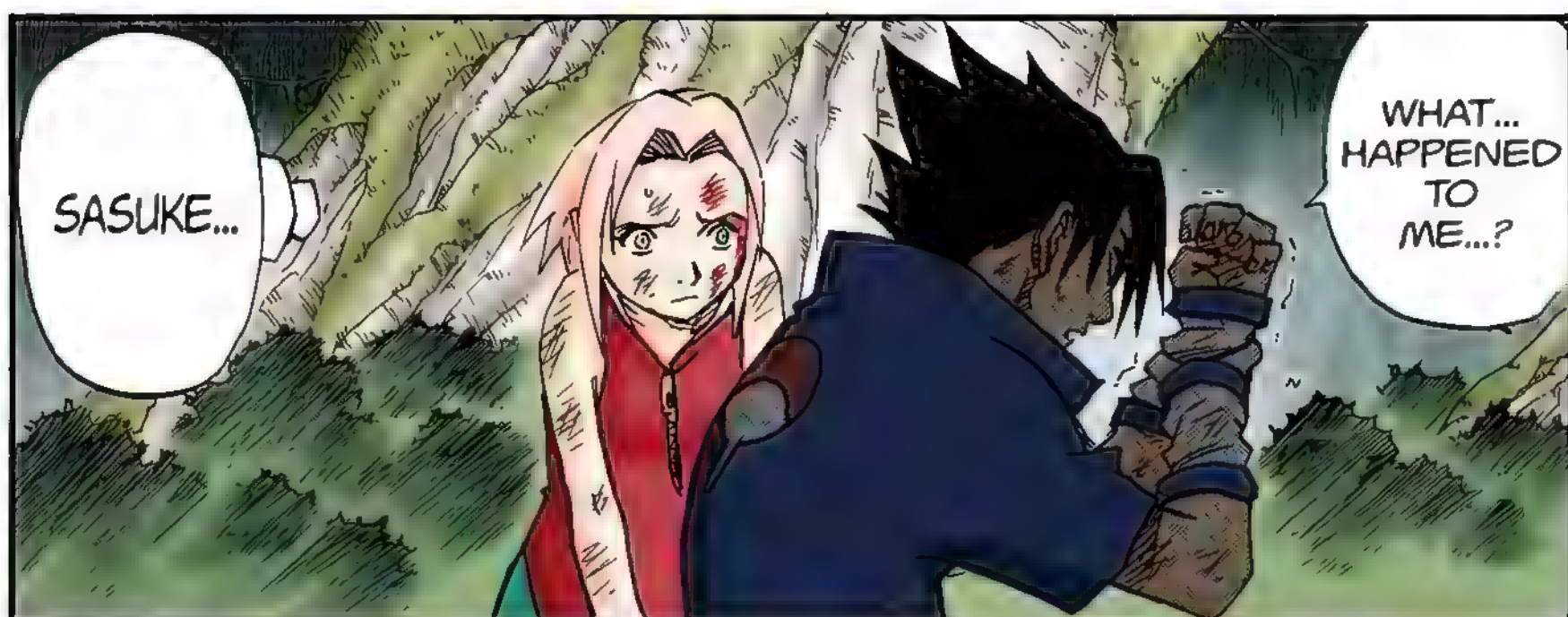
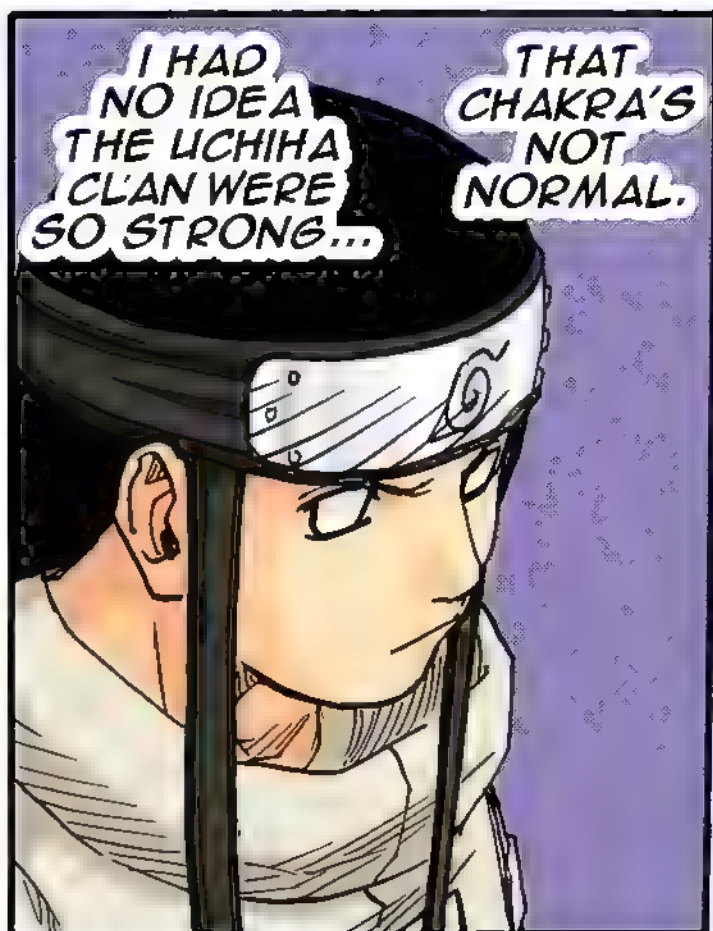
PLEASE...





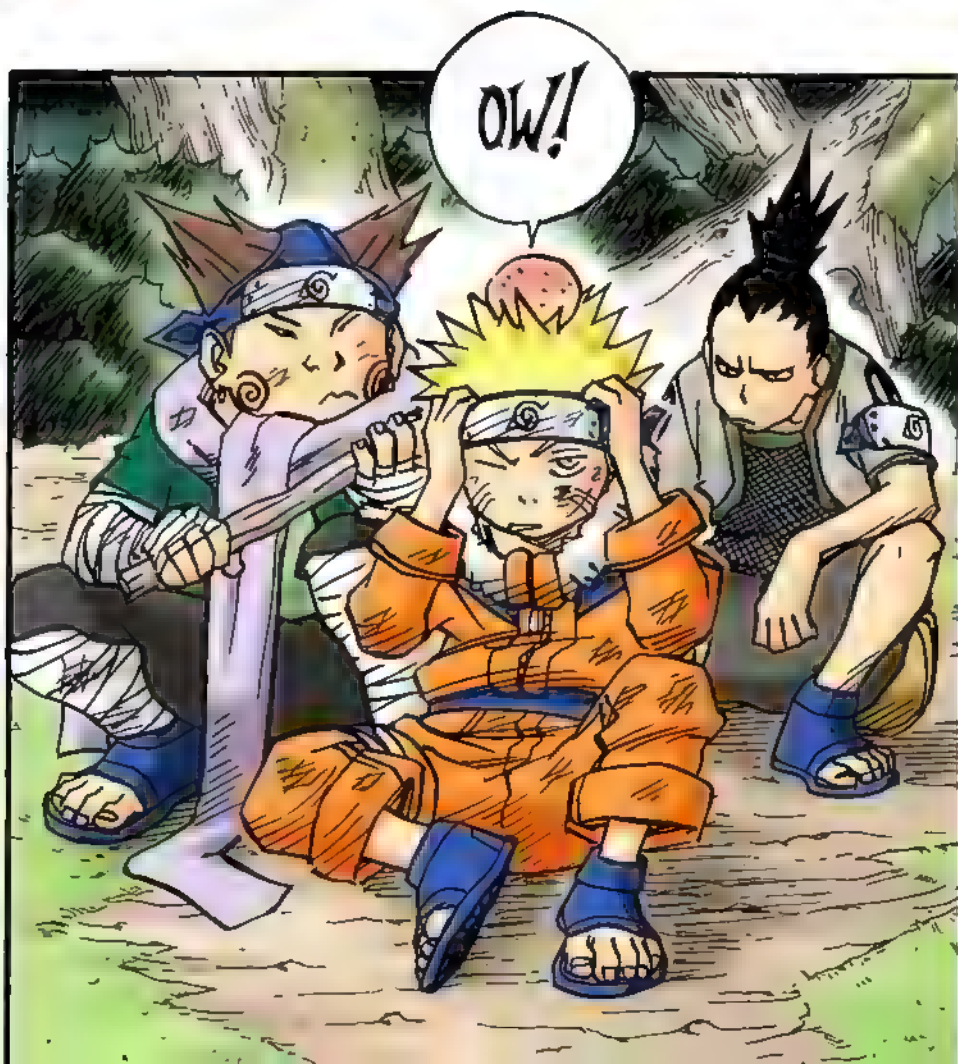
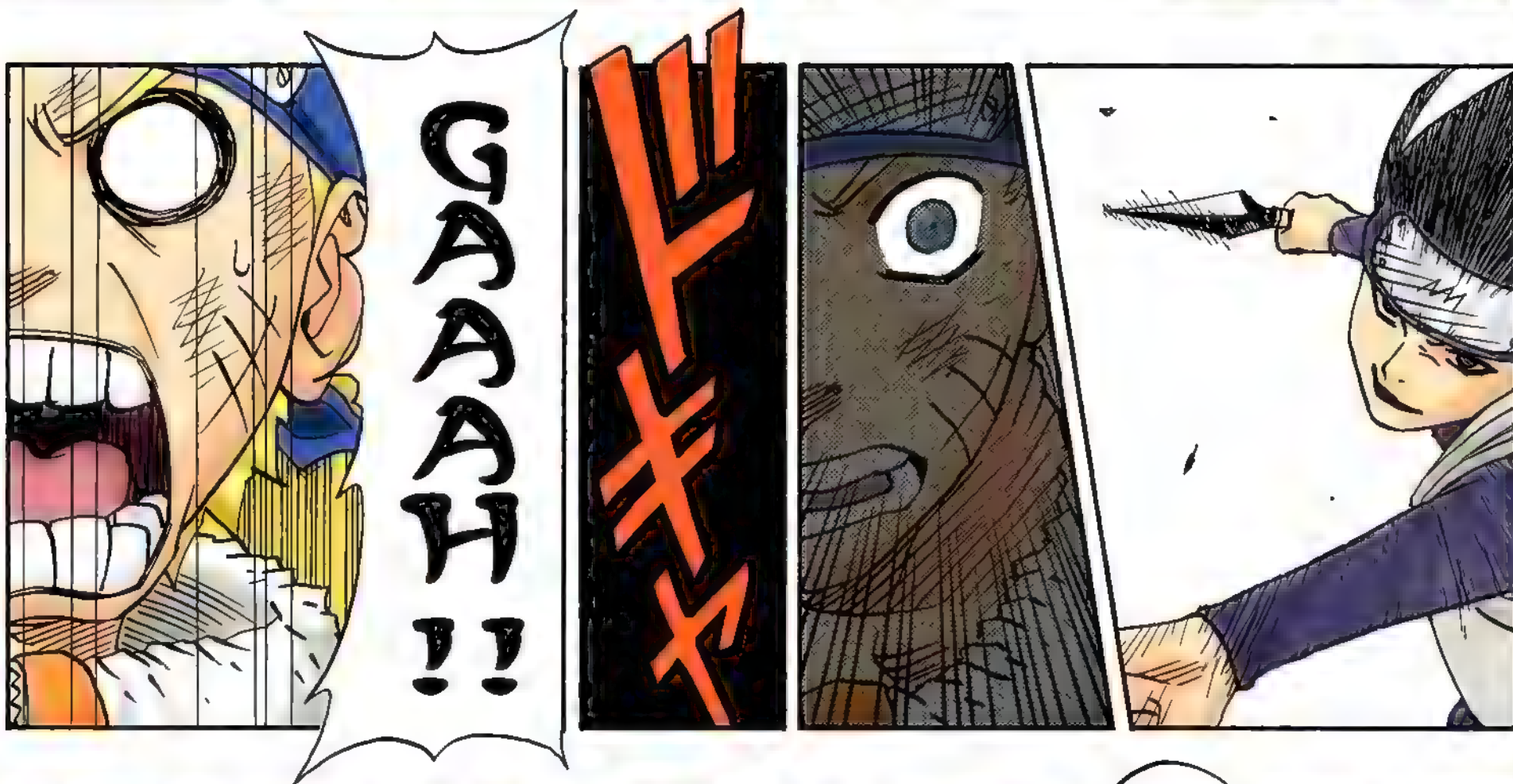


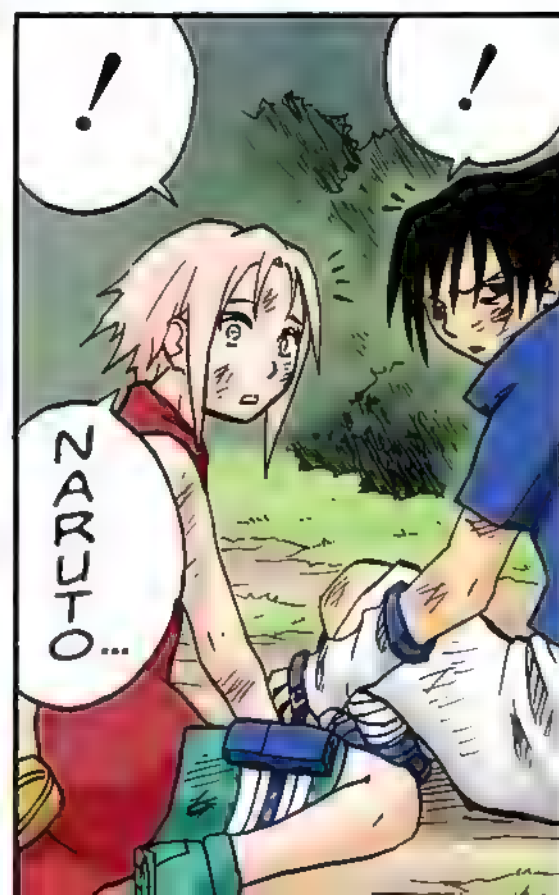
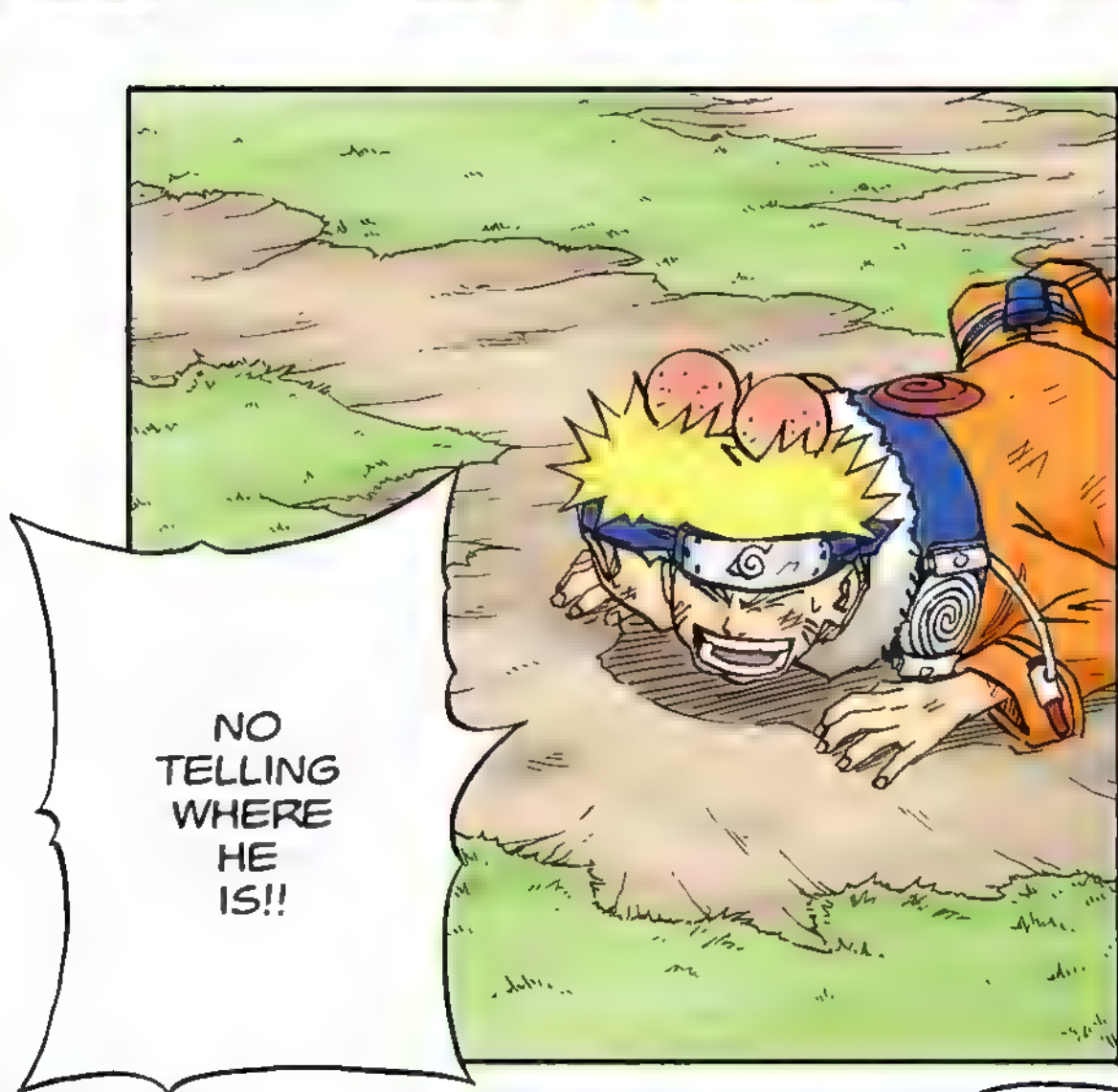
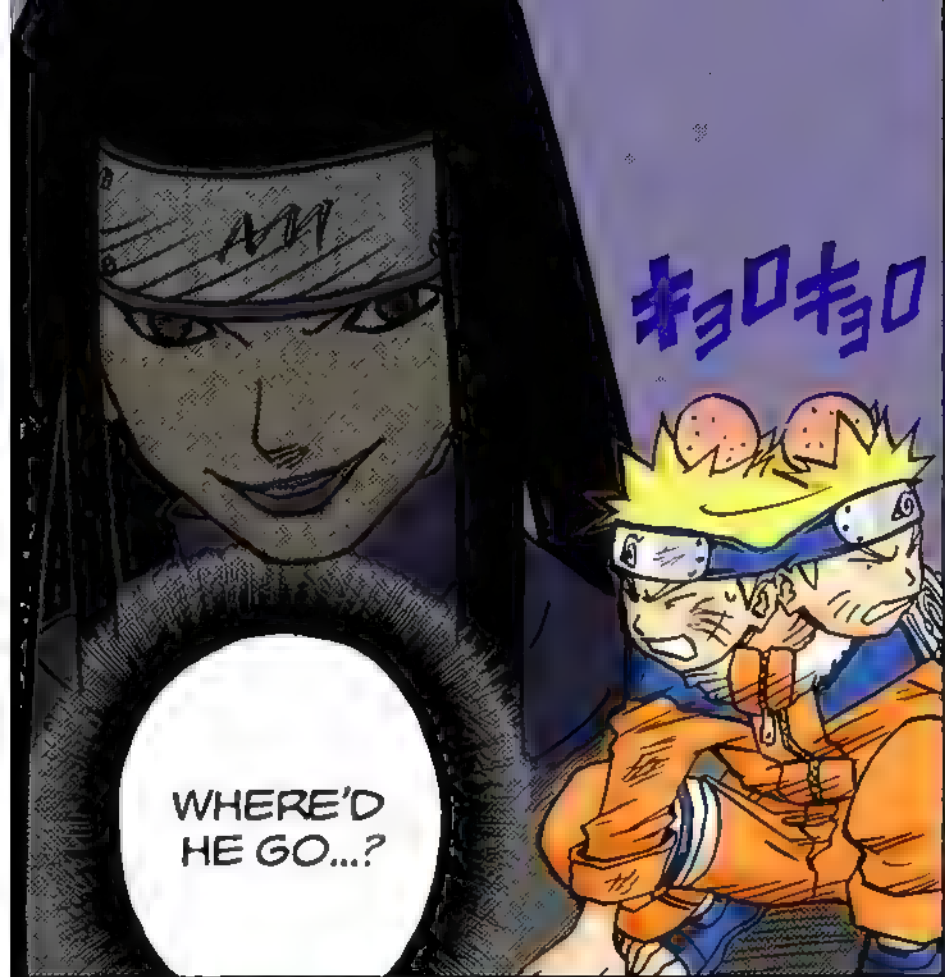


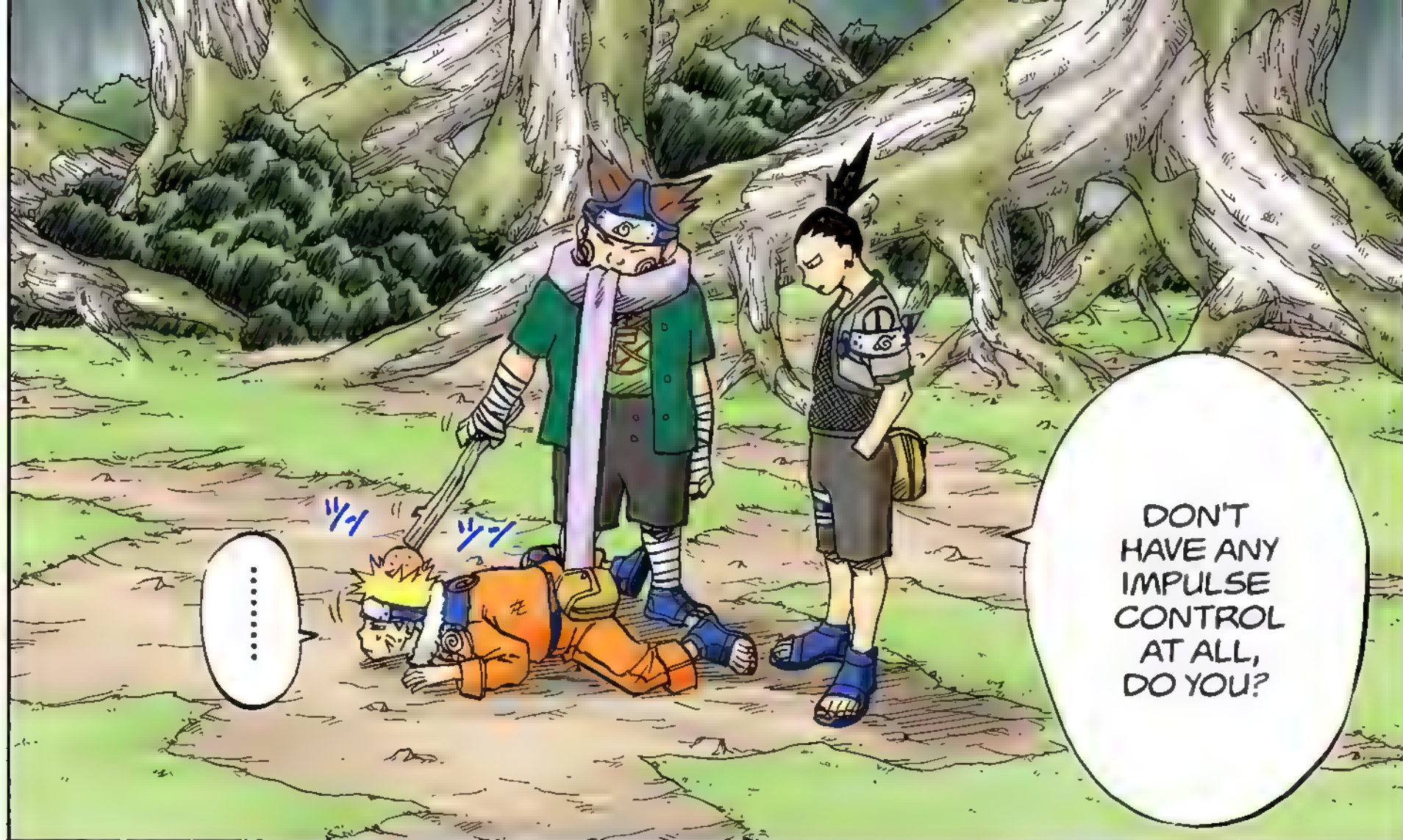


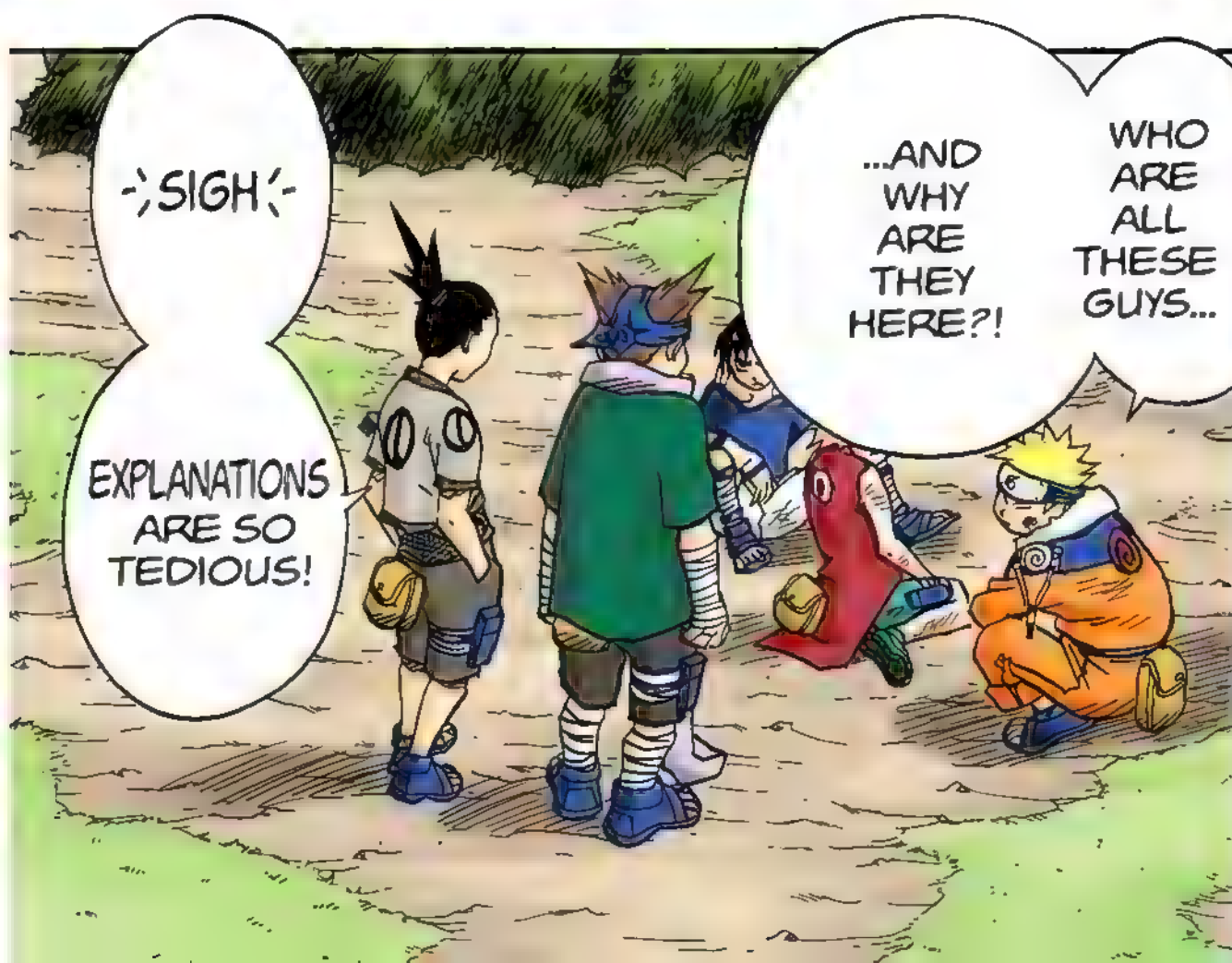
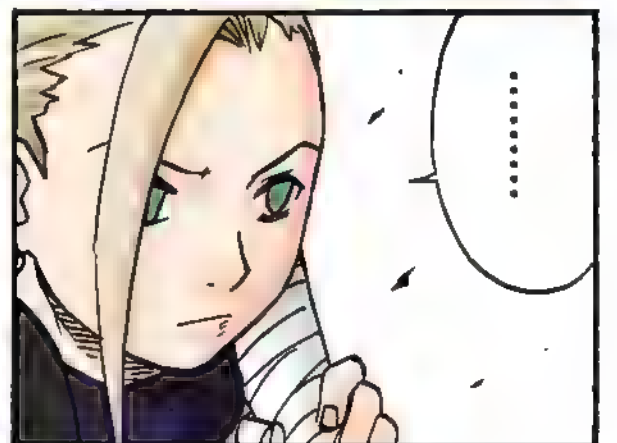
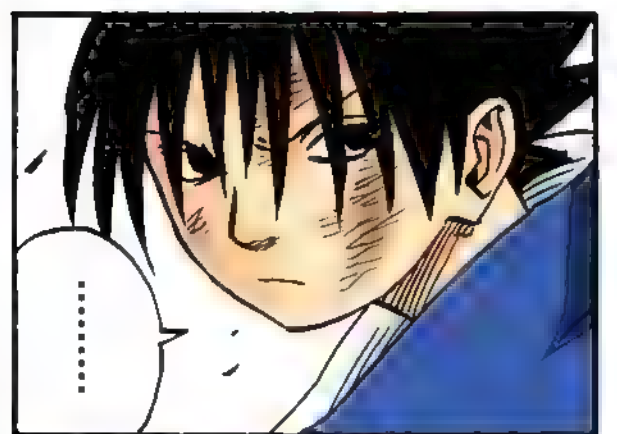
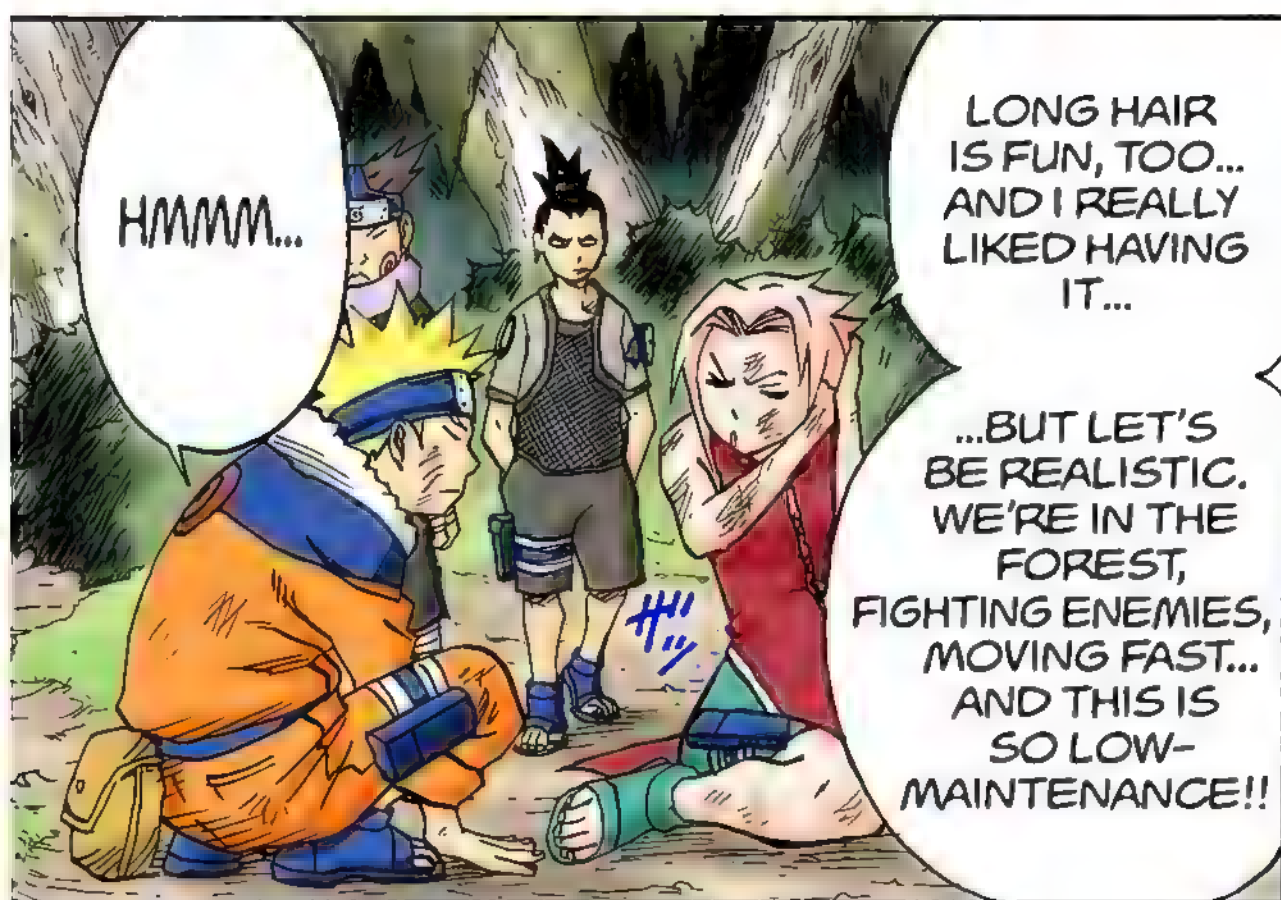
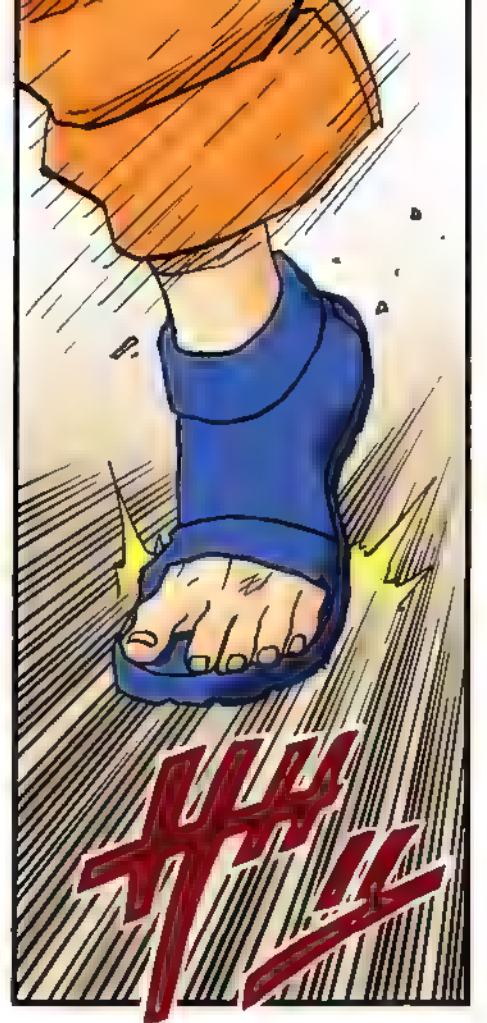
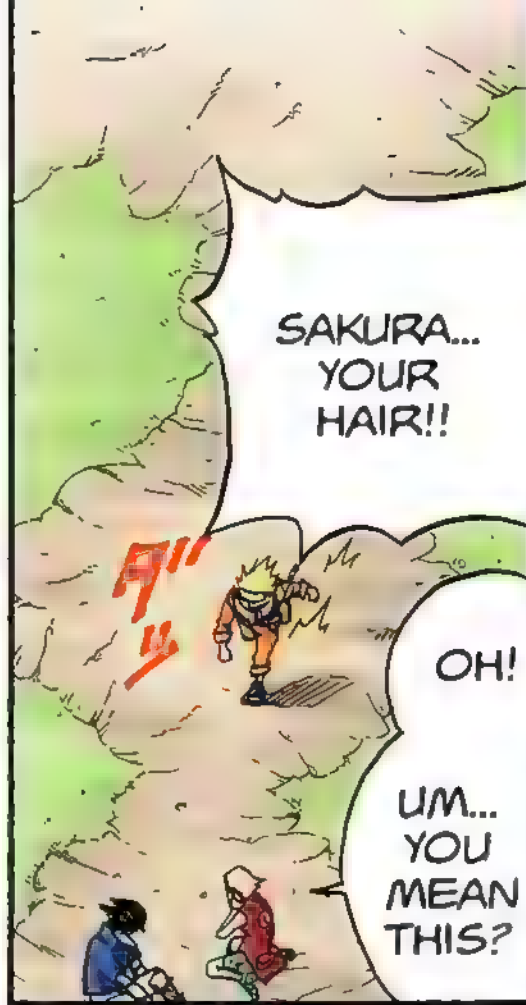


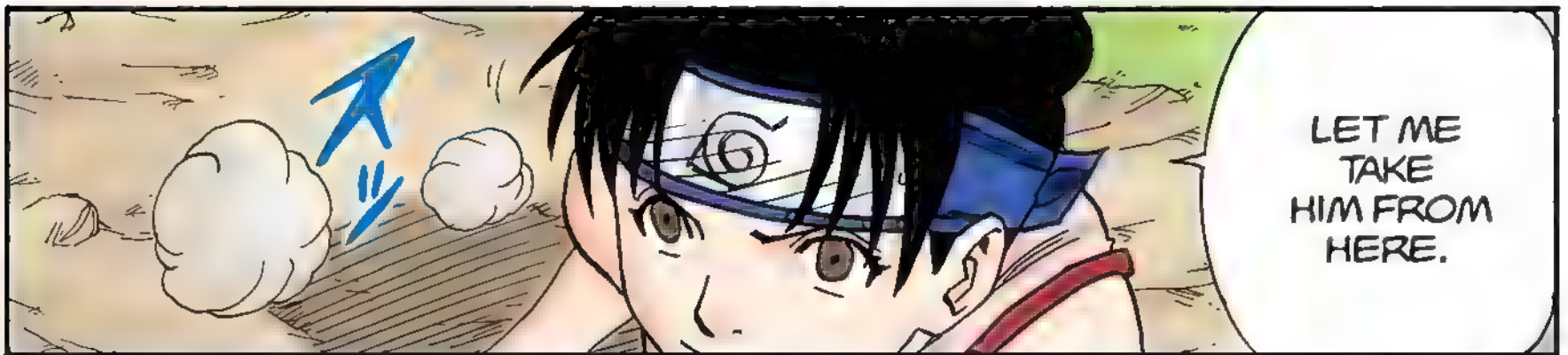
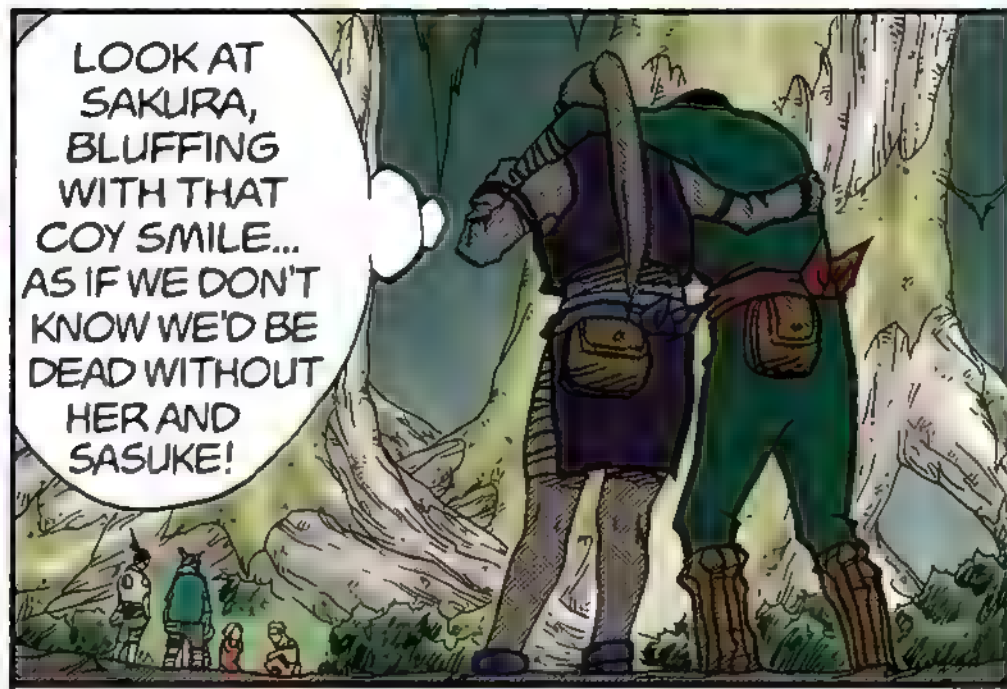
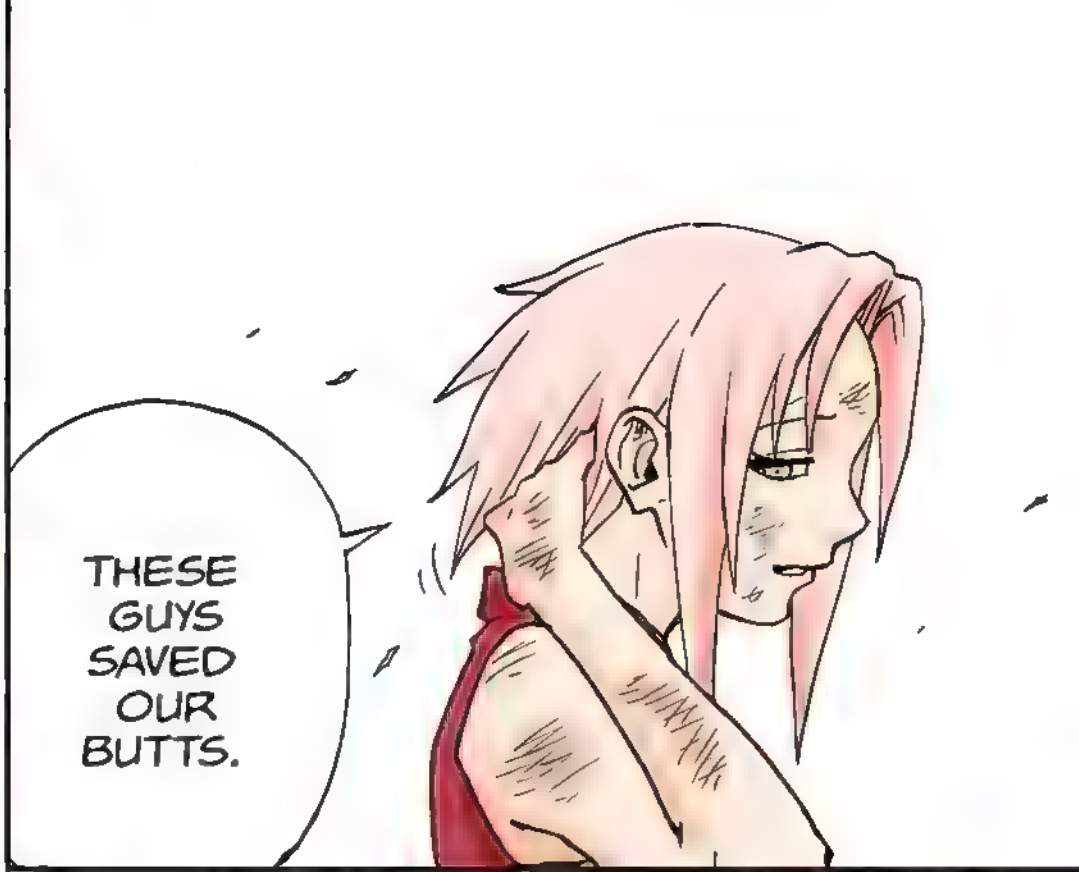
ナンバー 57 : 10 HOURS EARLIER

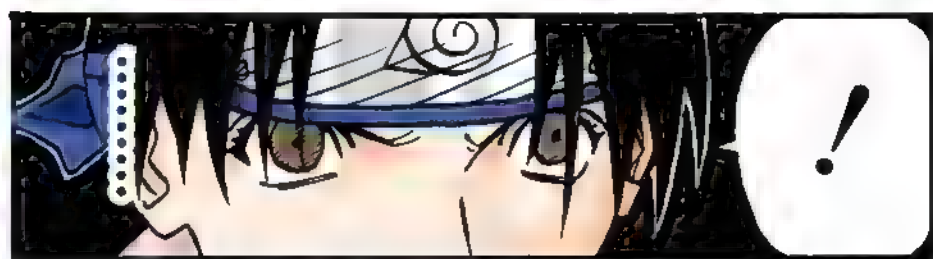
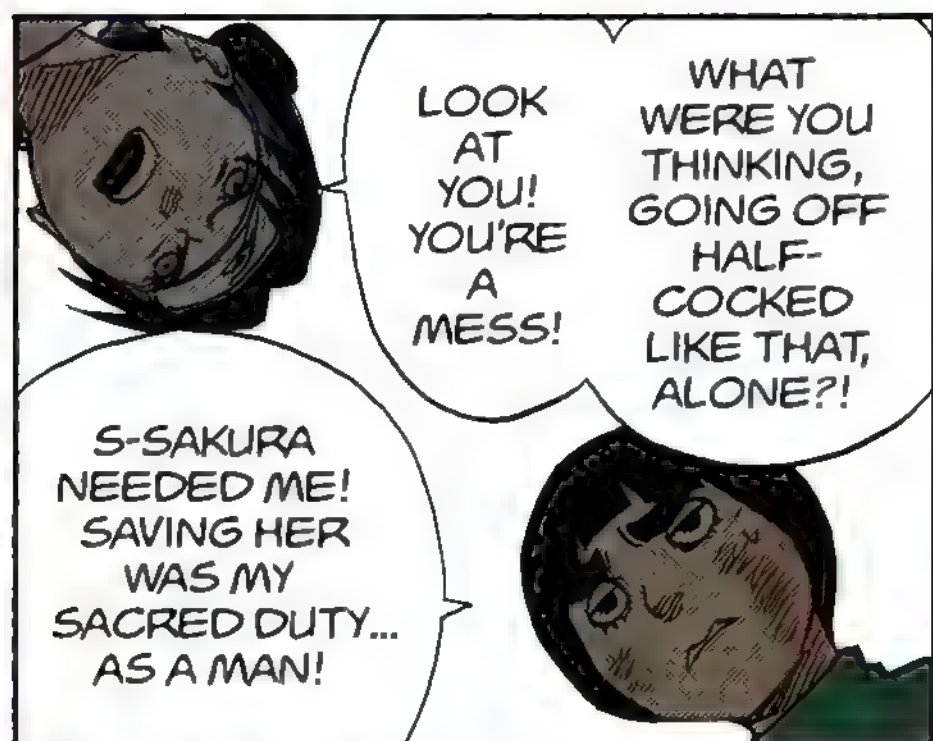


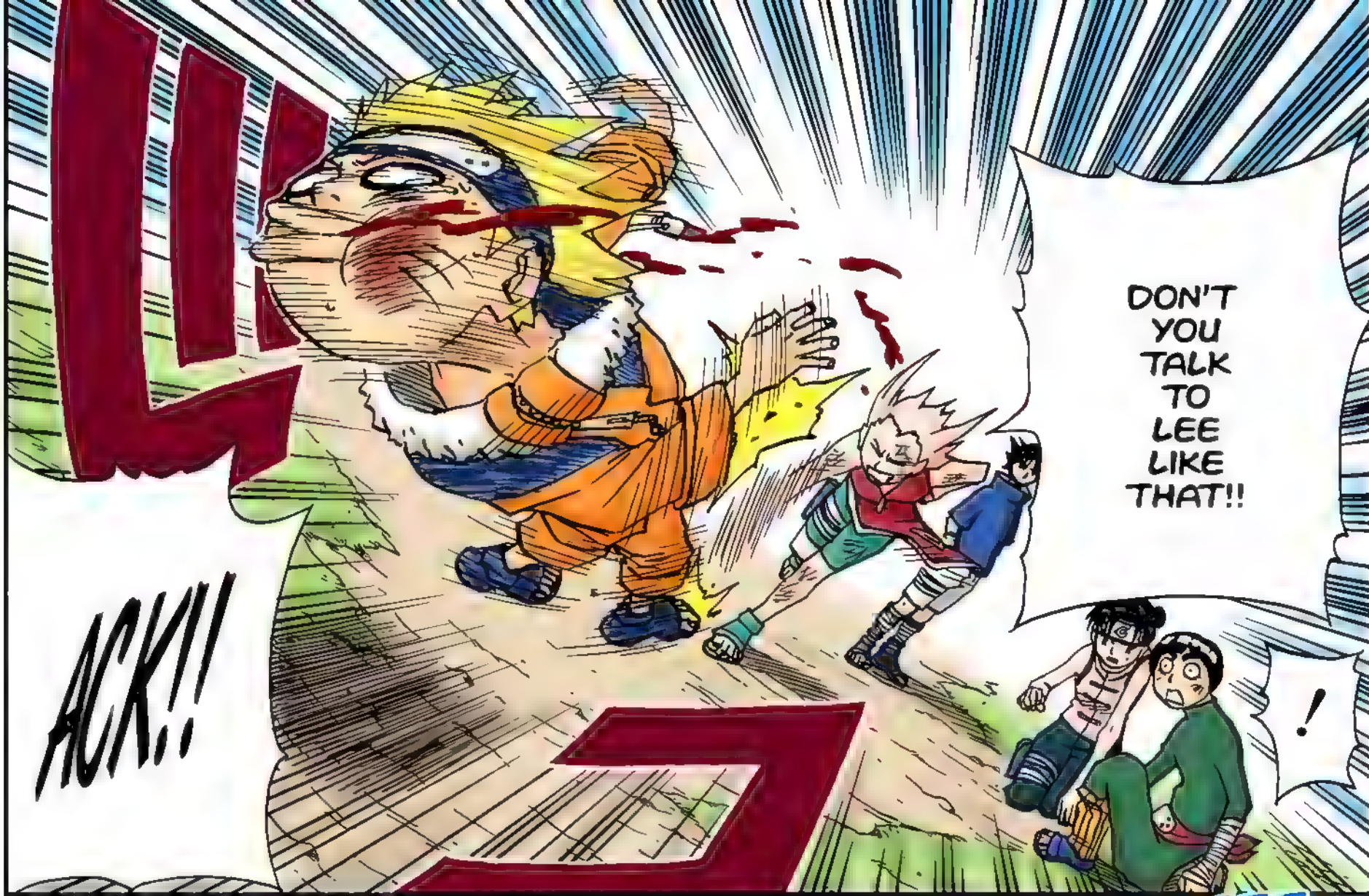






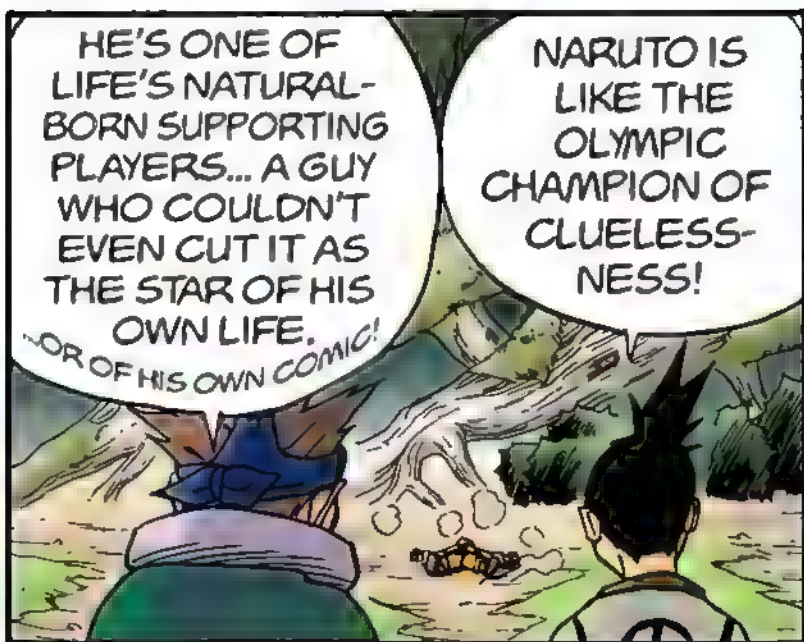






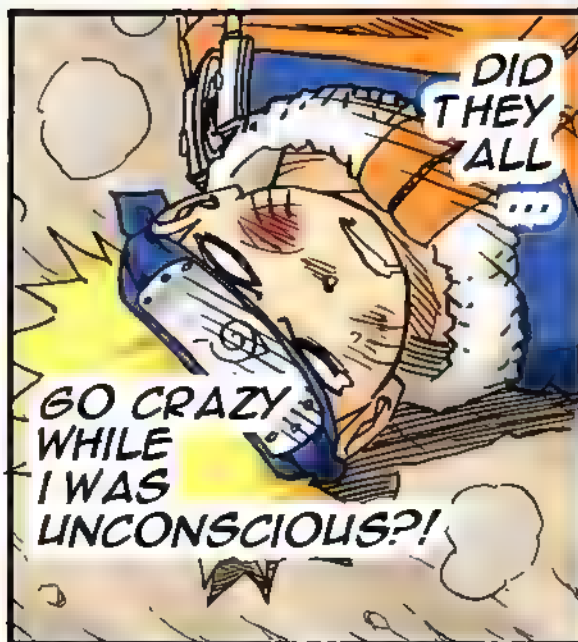
DON'T
YOU
TALK
TO
LEE
LIKE
THAT!!

ACK!!



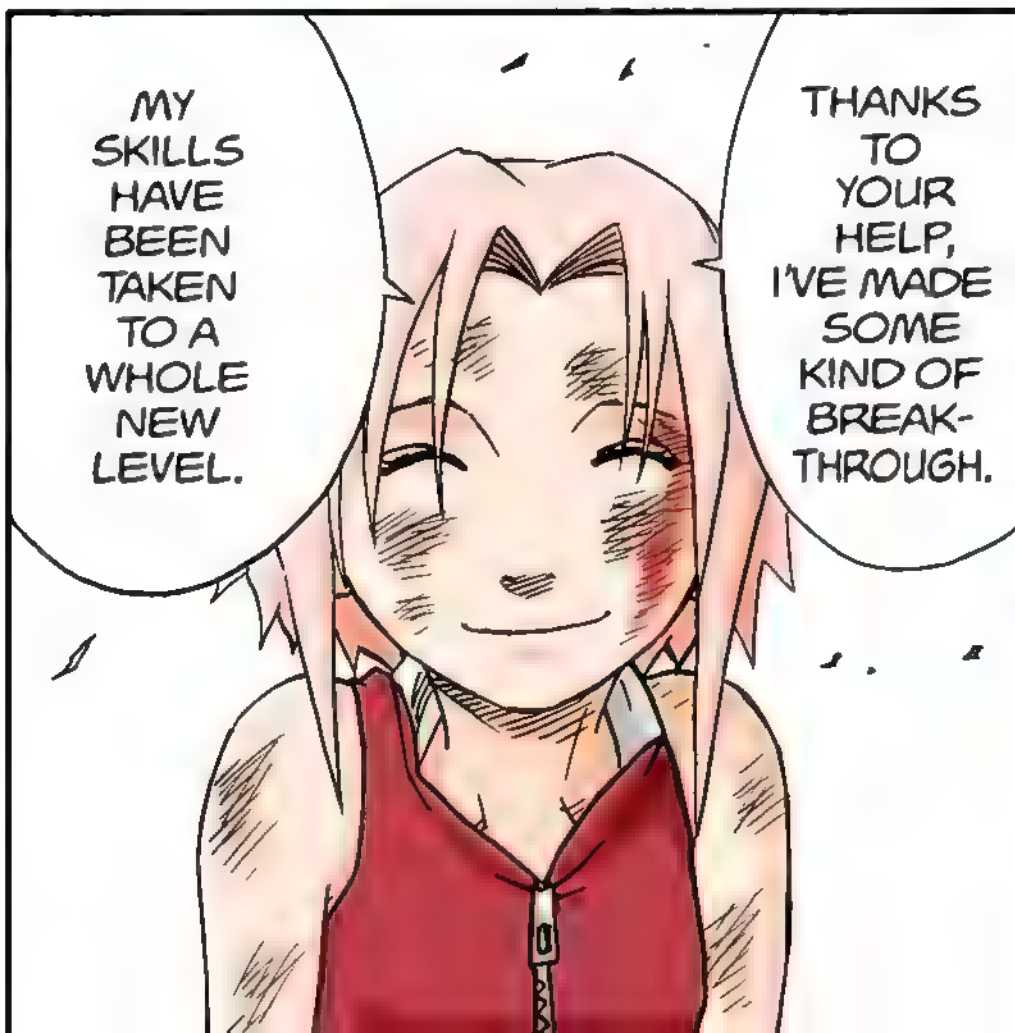
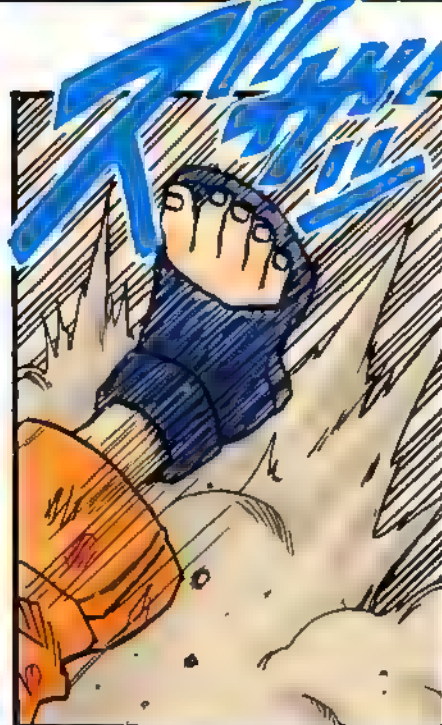
HE'S ONE OF
LIFE'S NATURAL-
BORN SUPPORTING
PLAYERS... A GUY
WHO COULDN'T
EVEN CUT IT AS
THE STAR OF HIS
OWN LIFE.
NOR OF HIS OWN COMIC!

NARUTO IS
LIKE THE
OLYMPIC
CHAMPION OF
CLUELESS-
NESS!



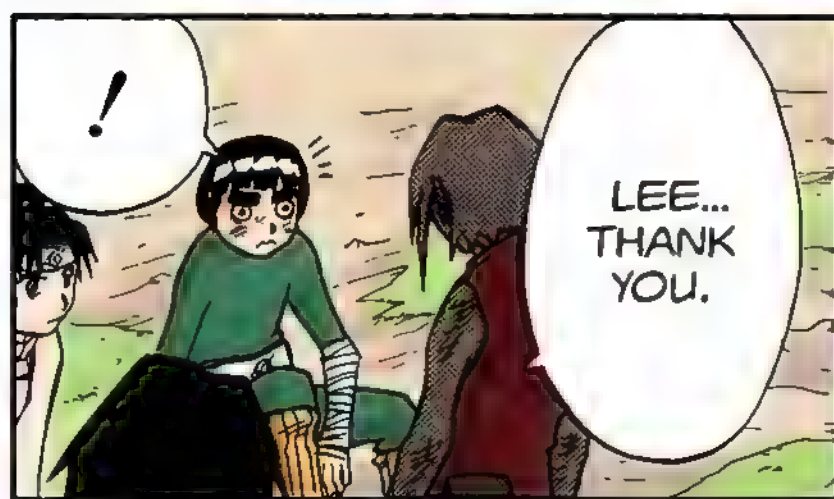
DID
THEY
ALL

GO CRAZY
WHILE
I WAS
UNCONSCIOUS?!

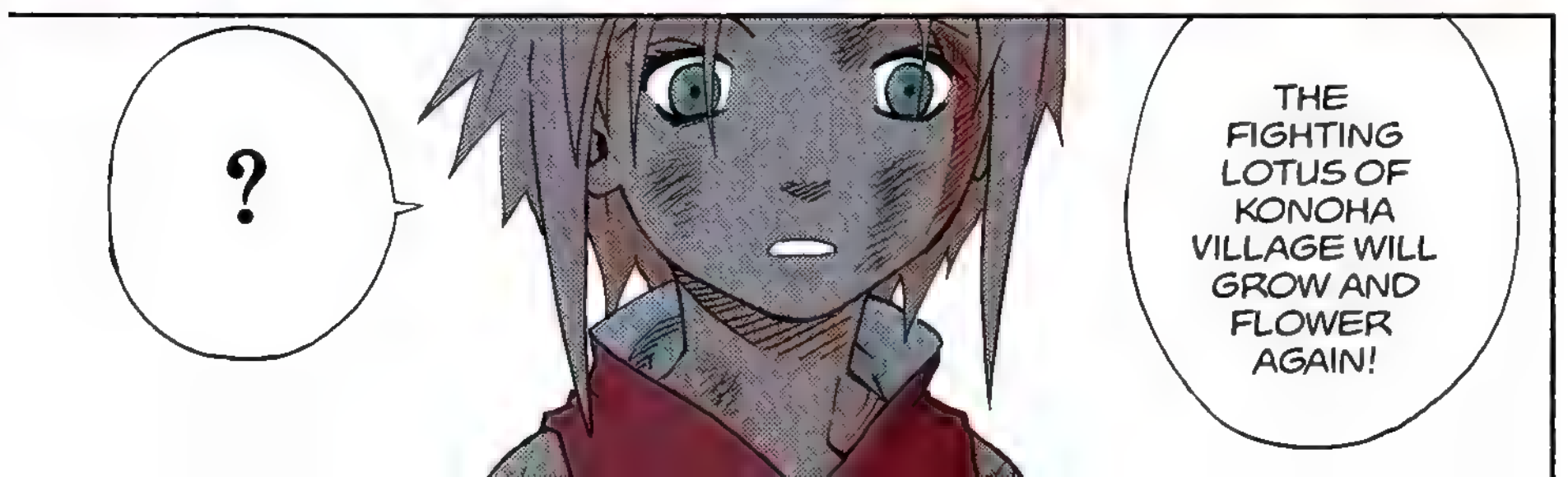
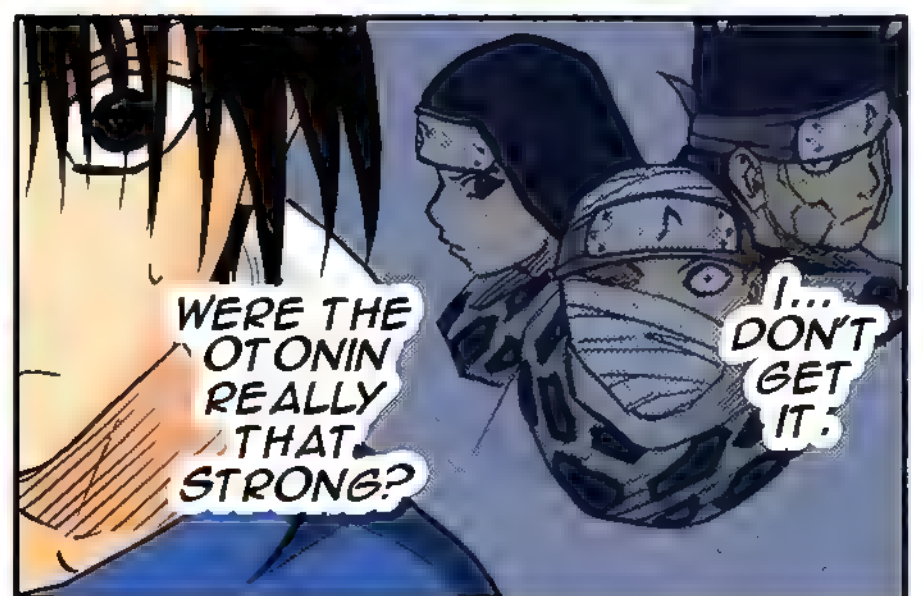
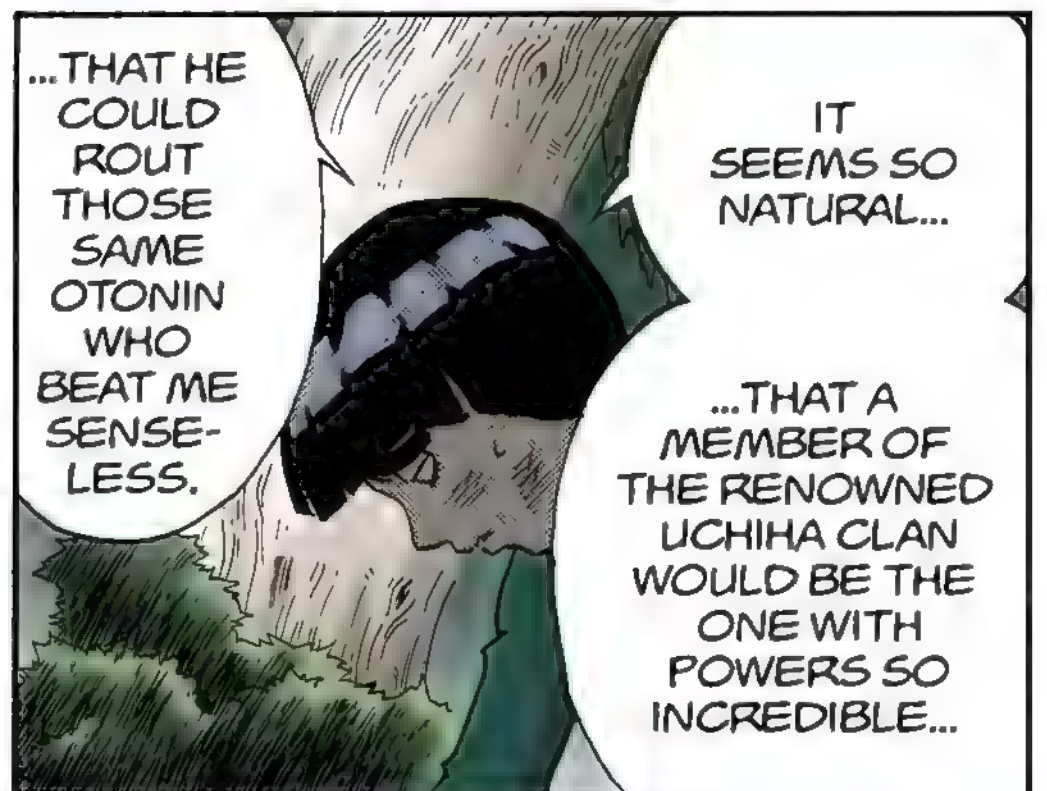
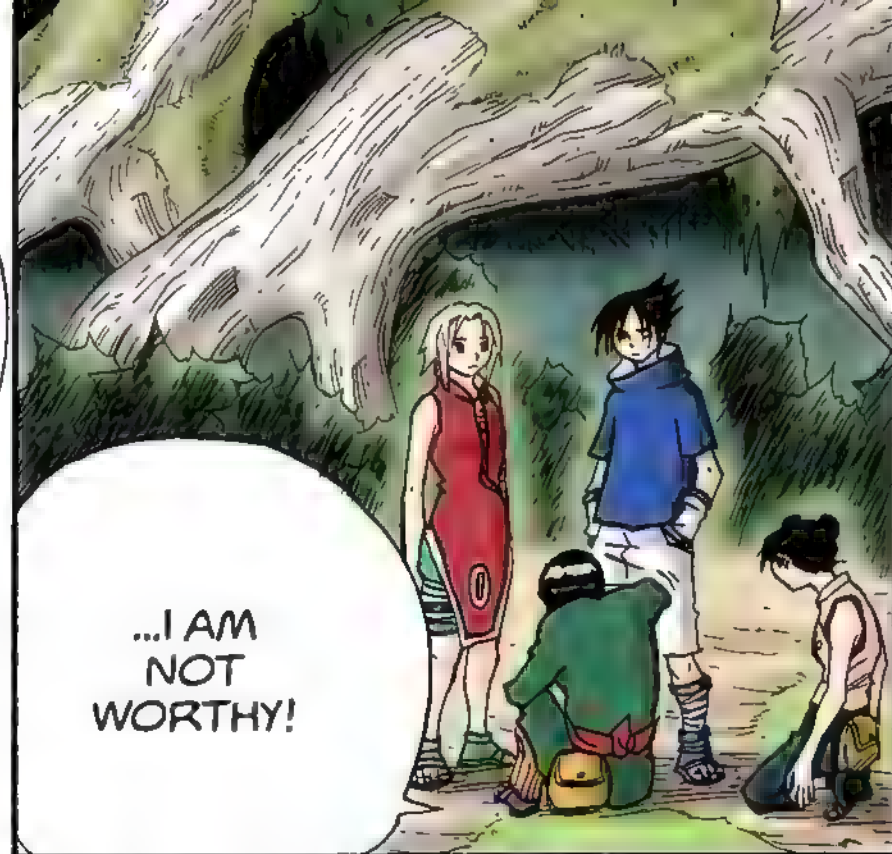


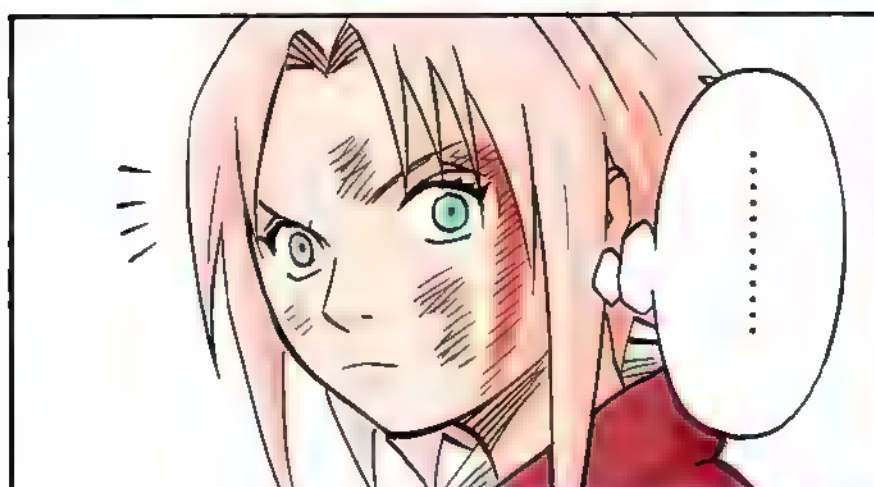
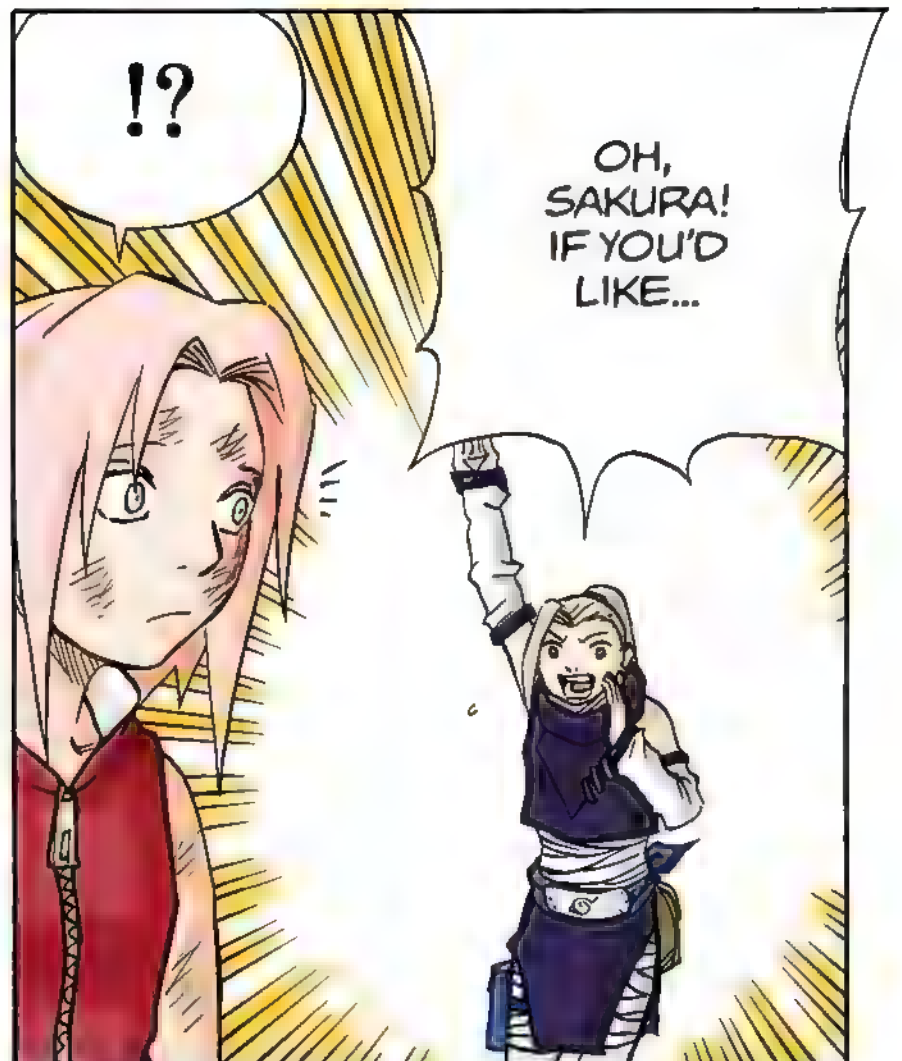
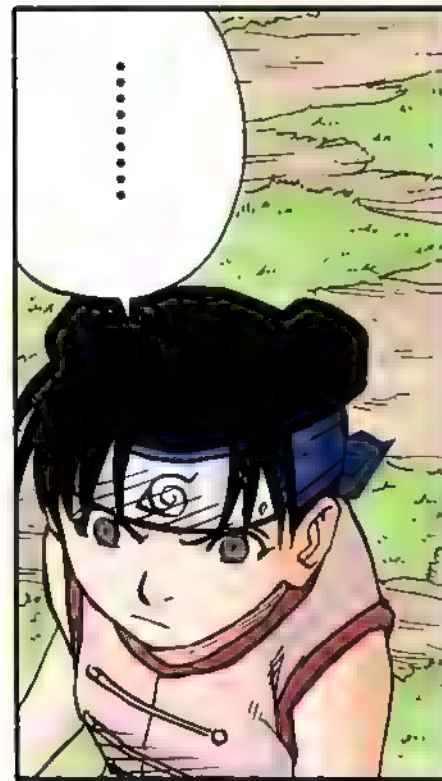
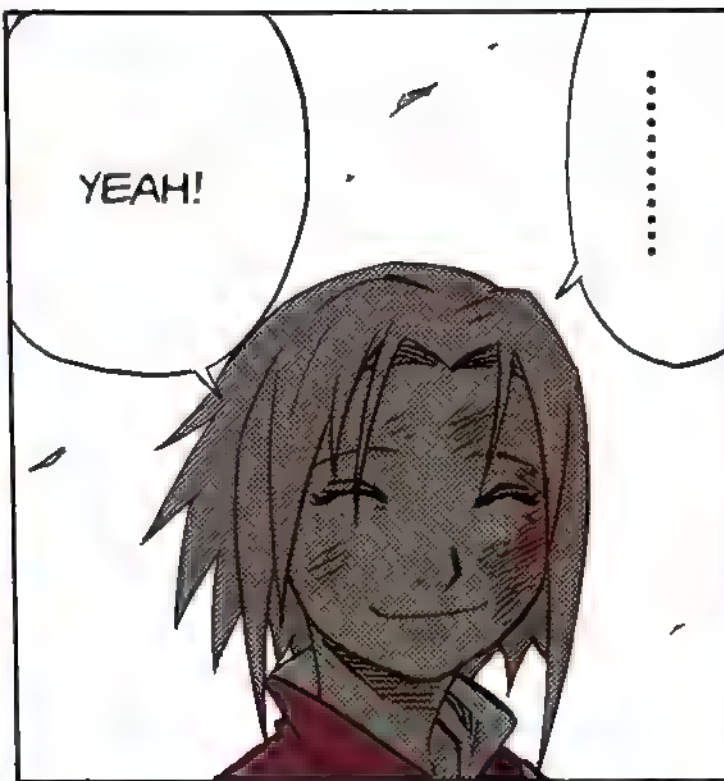
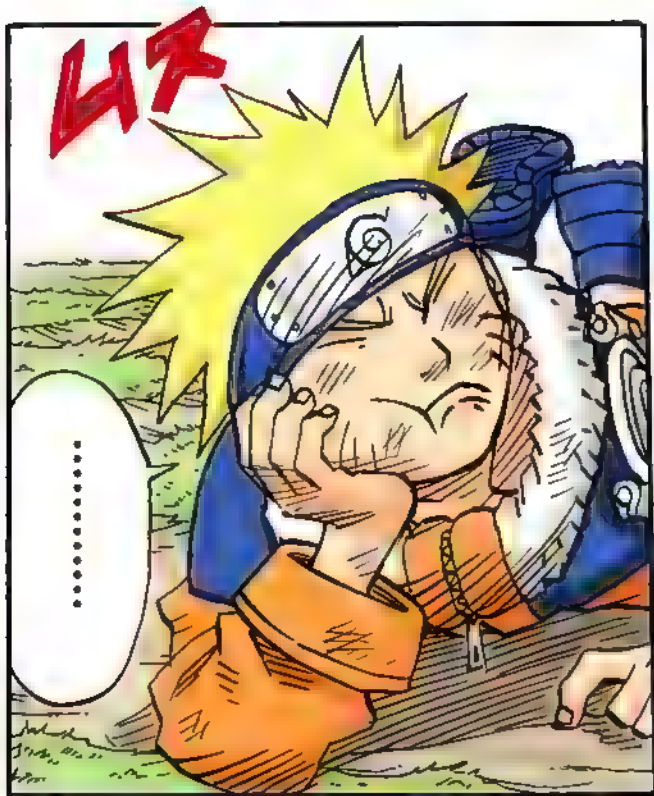
MY
SKILLS
HAVE
BEEN
TAKEN
TO A
WHOLE
NEW
LEVEL.

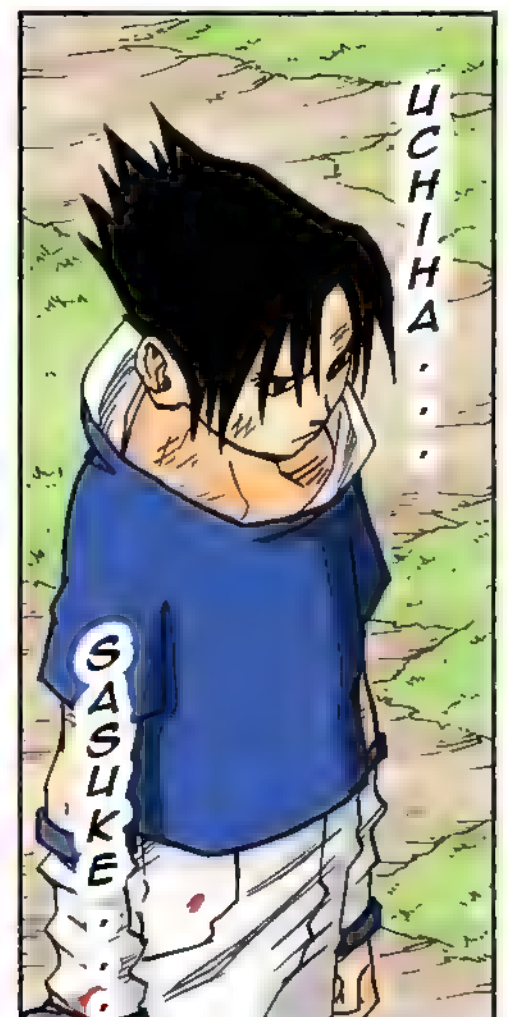
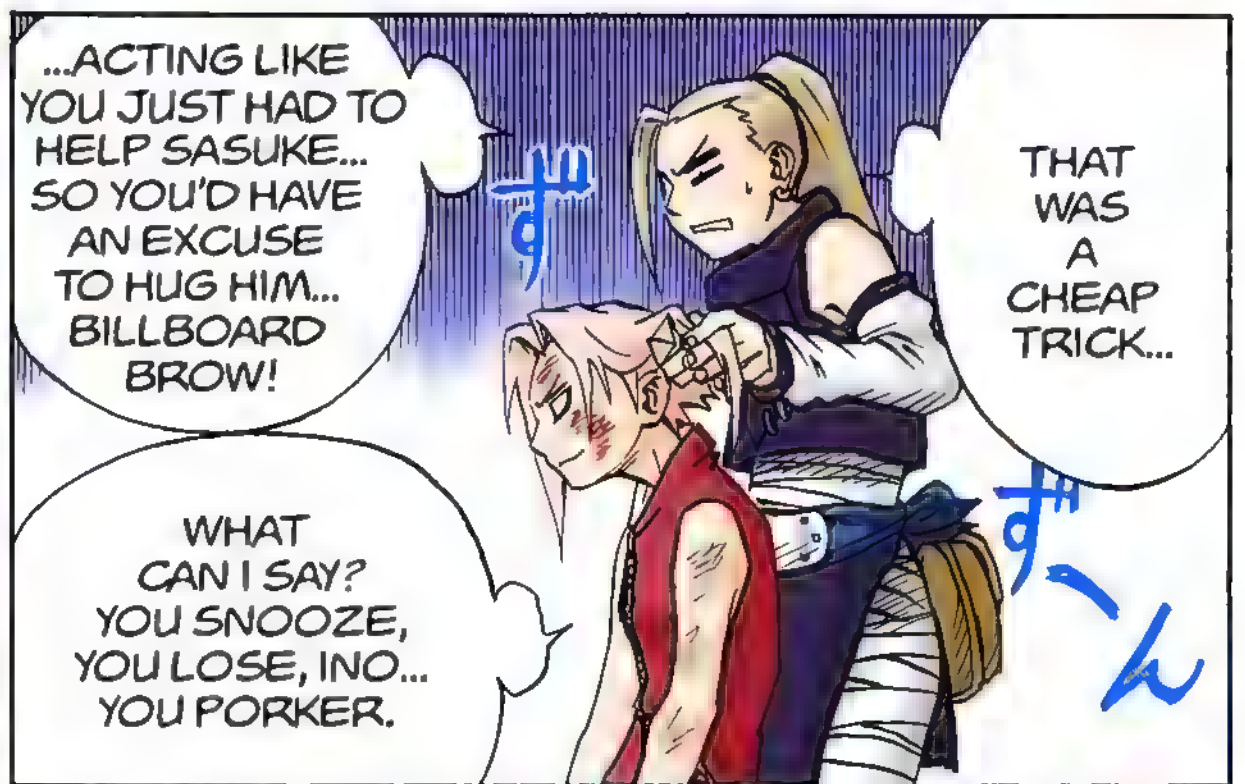
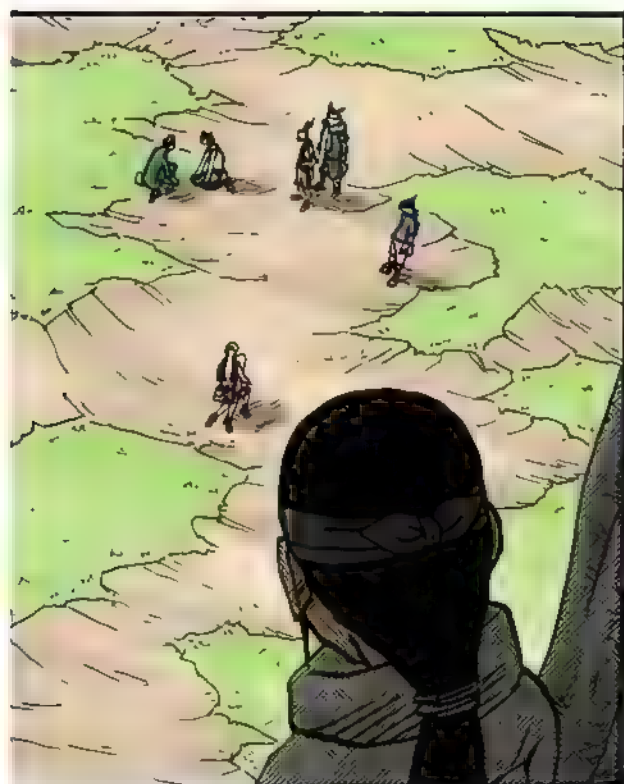
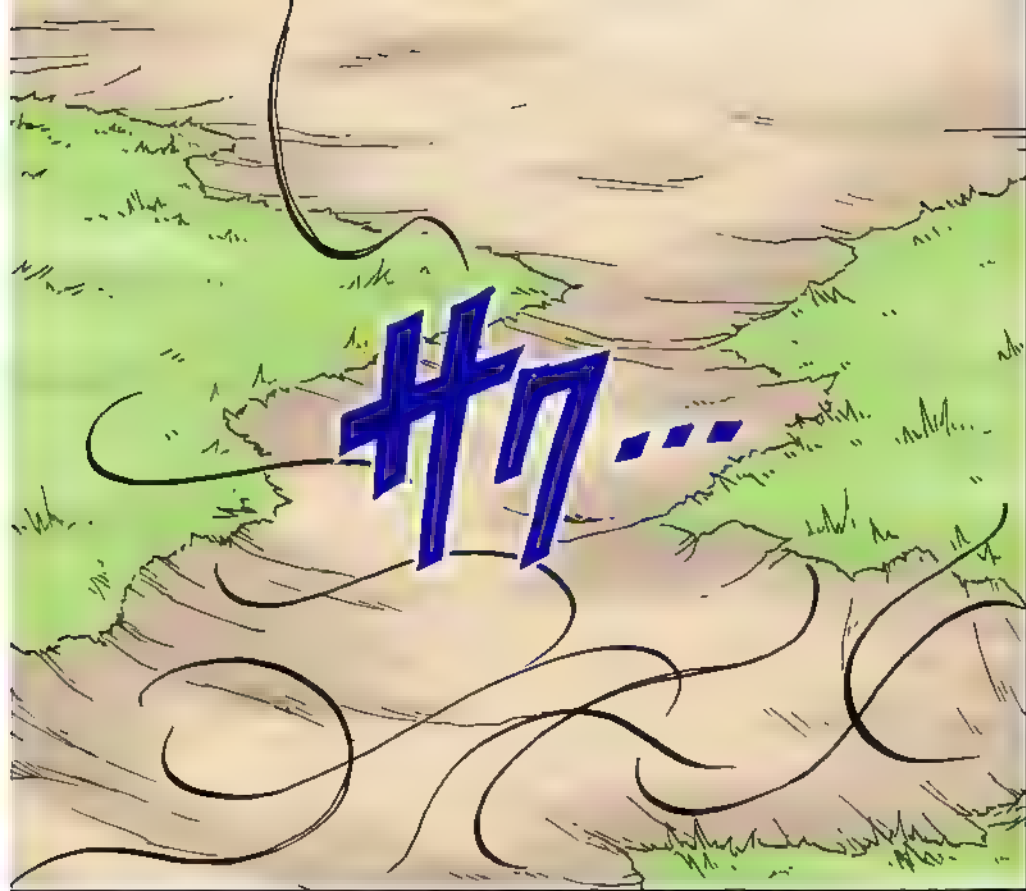
THANKS
TO
YOUR
HELP,
I'VE MADE
SOME
KIND OF
BREAK-
THROUGH.

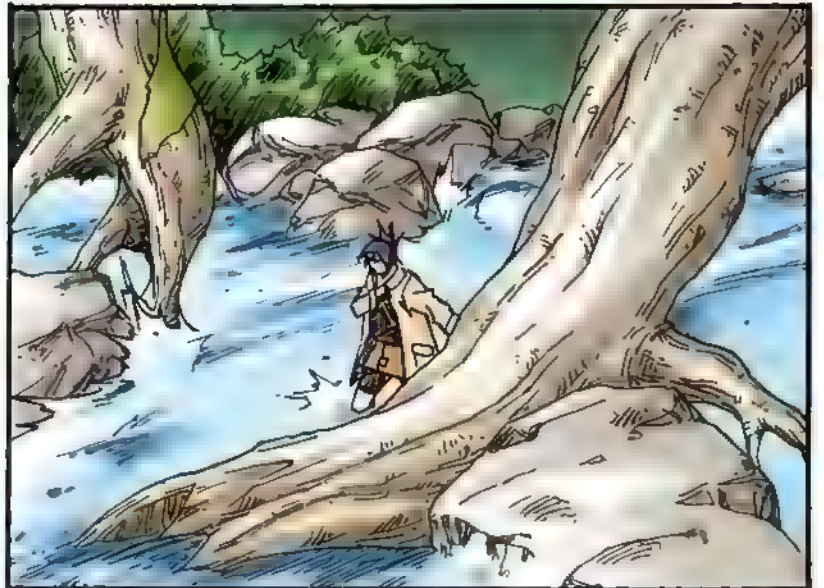
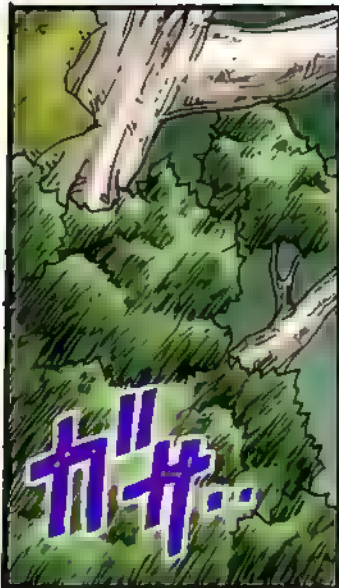
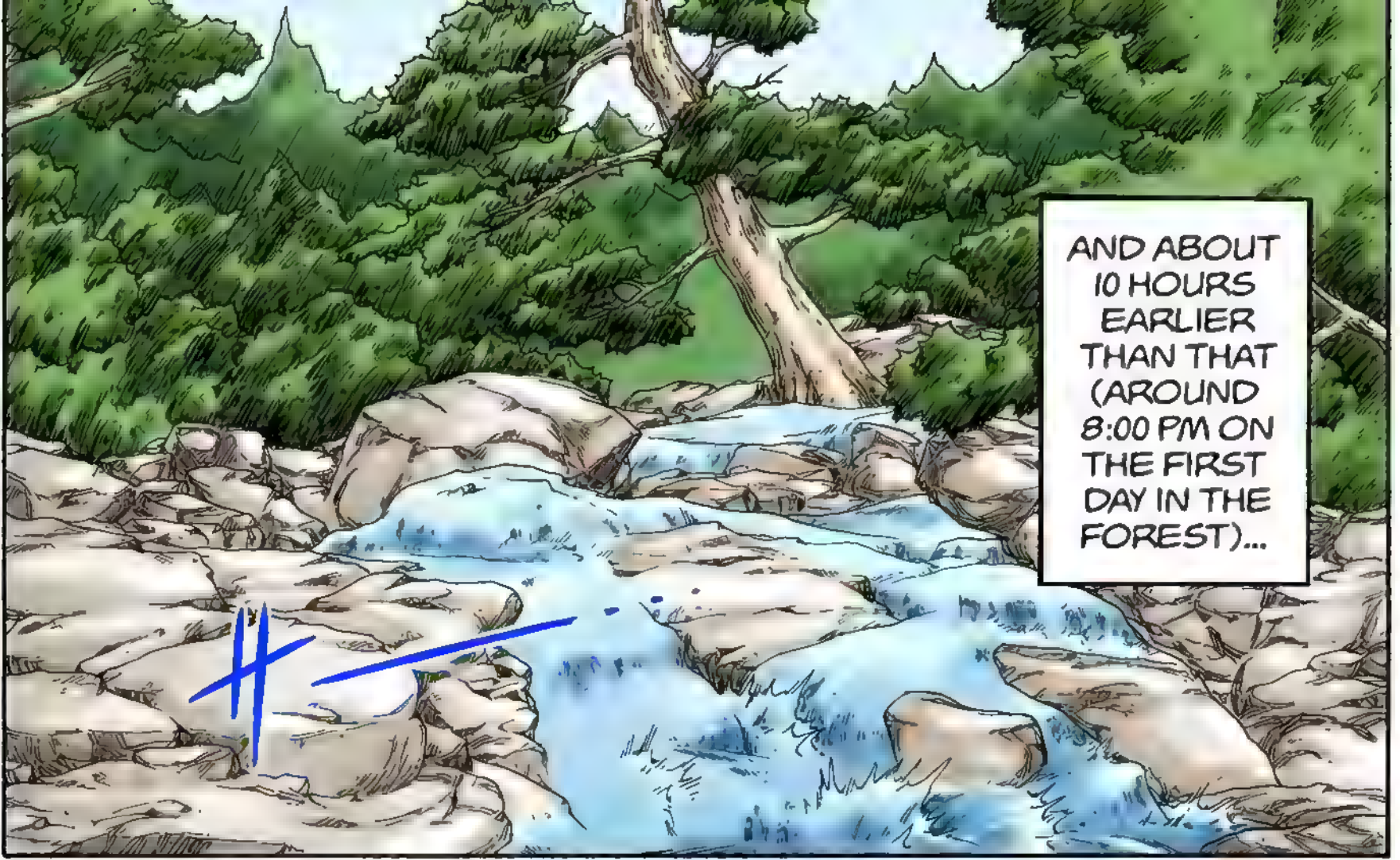


LEE...
THANK
YOU.







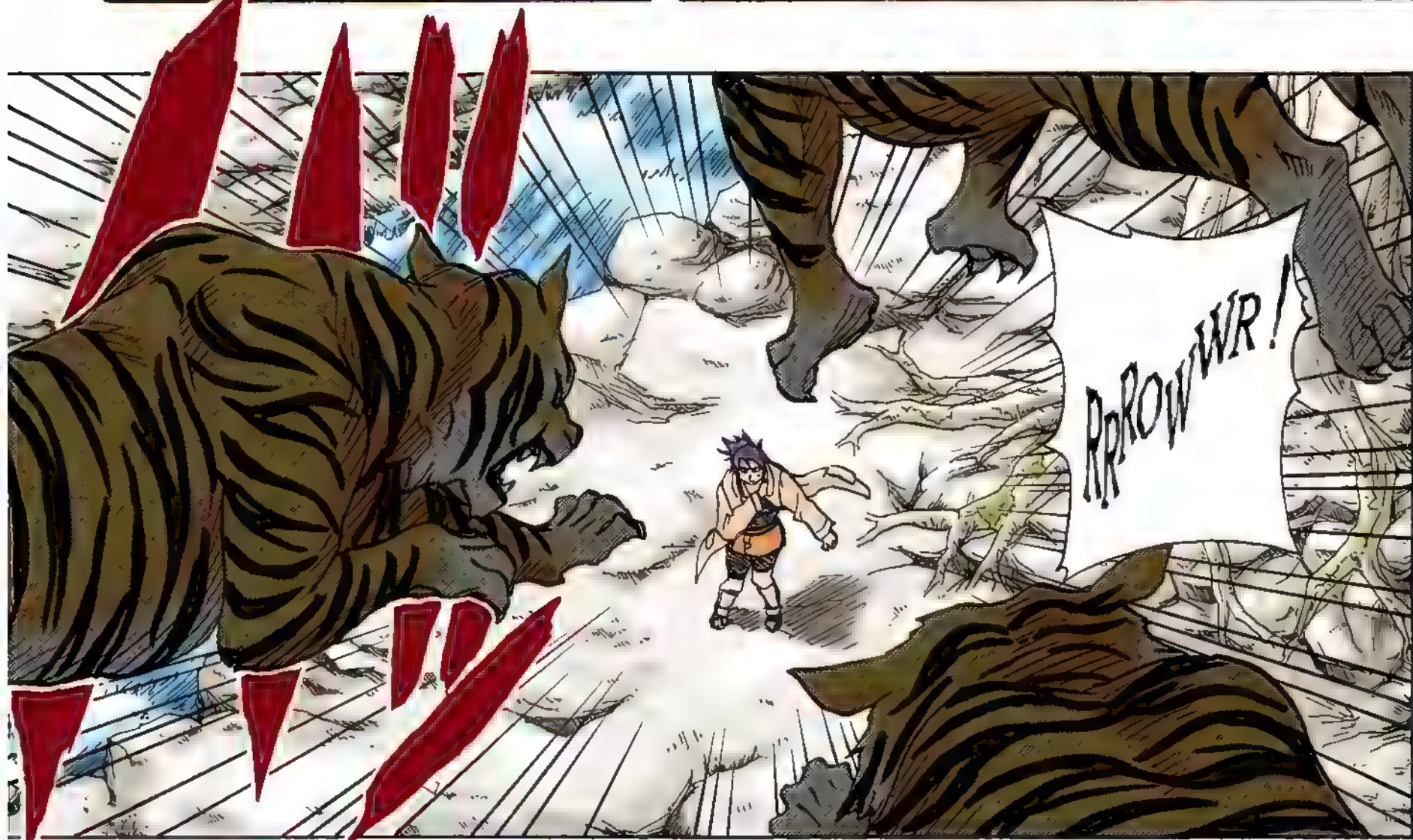




I DO NOT HAVE TIME FOR THIS!

HUF

PUF



RRROWWR!



THE ART PARALYSIS!

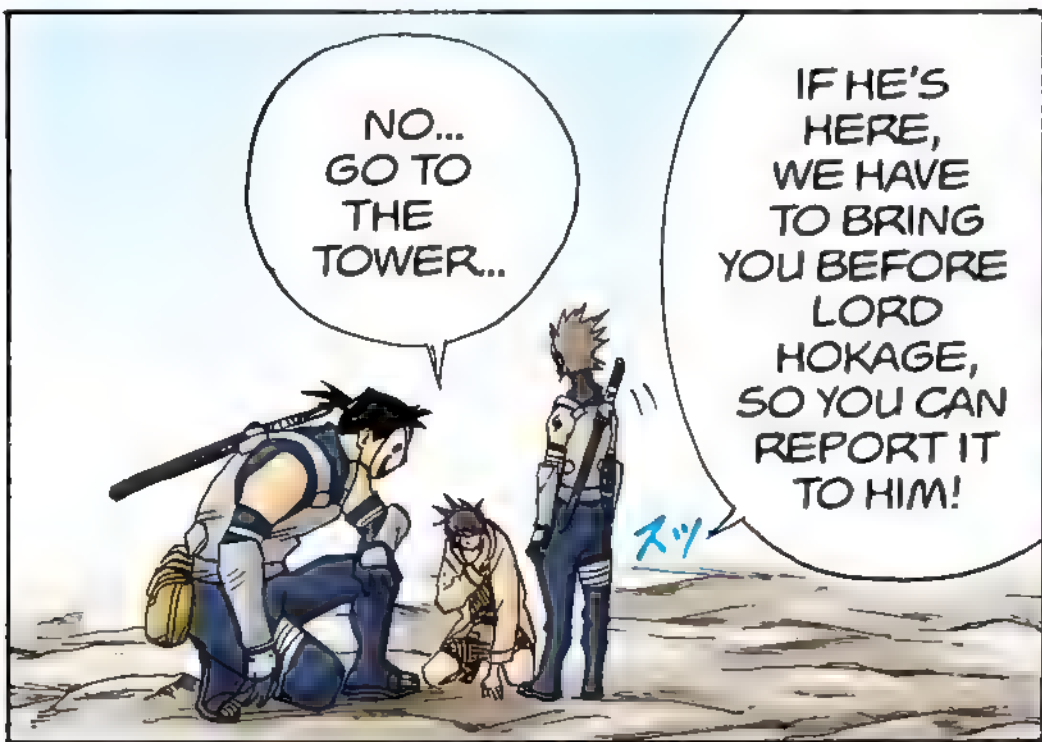
TH- THIS LOOKS LIKE--

?

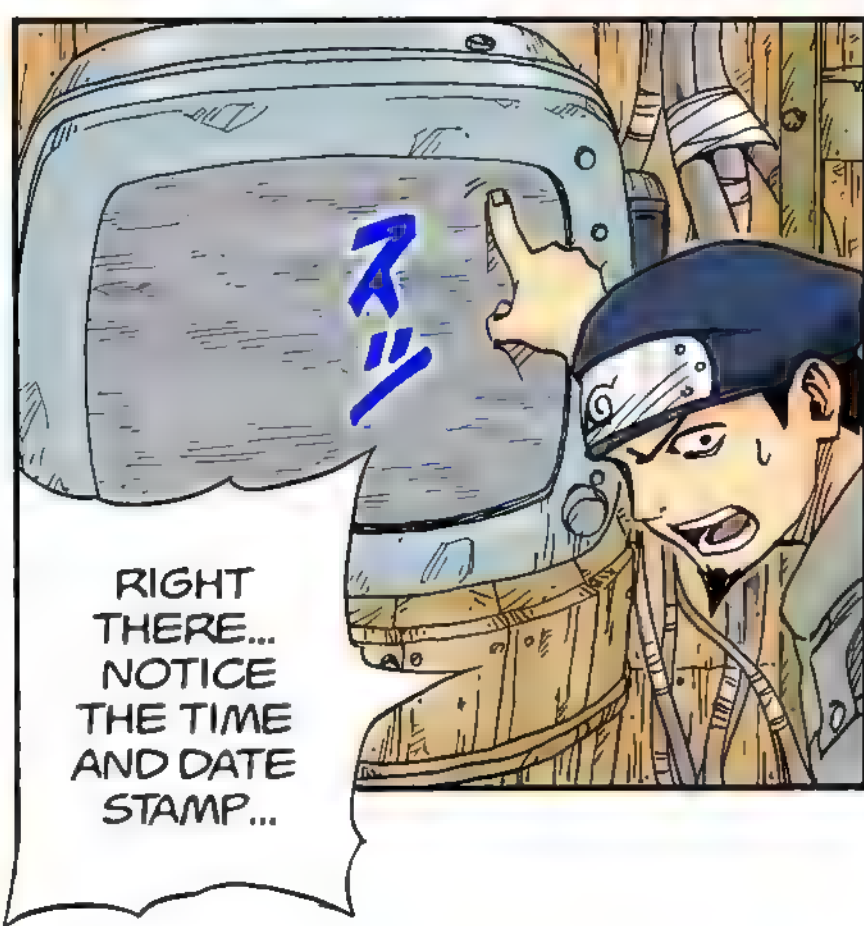
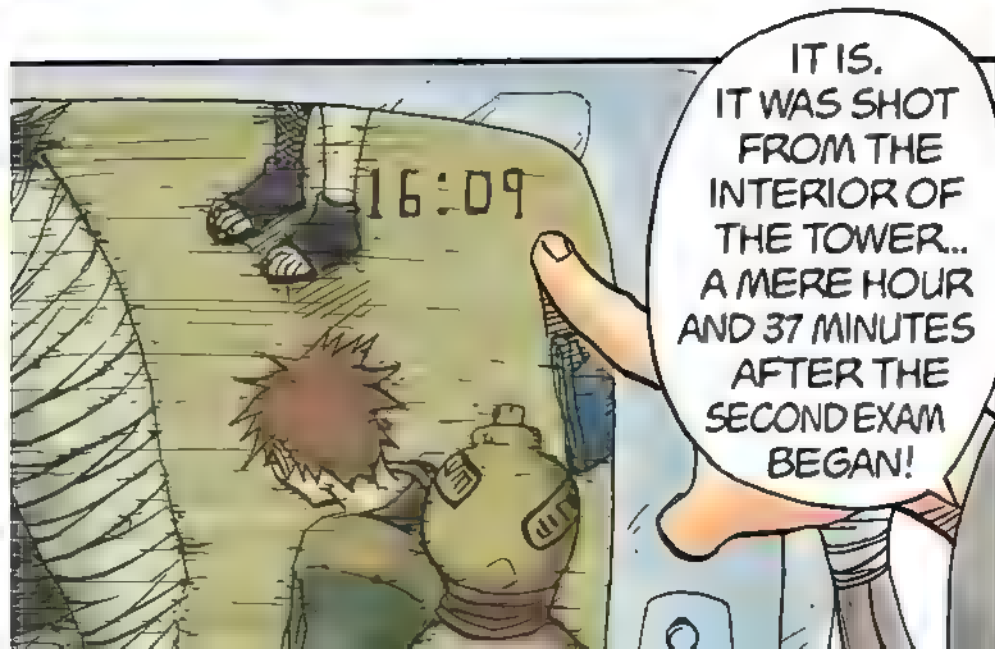
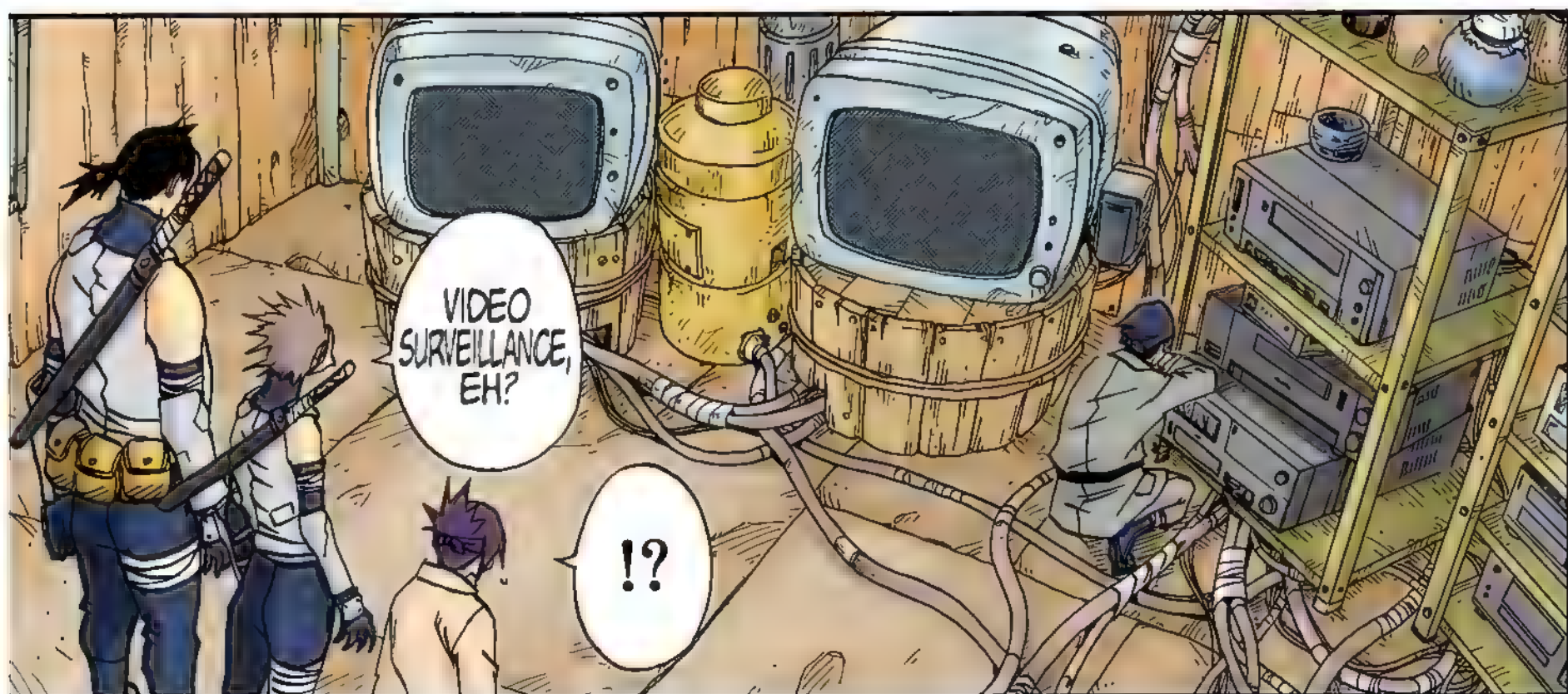
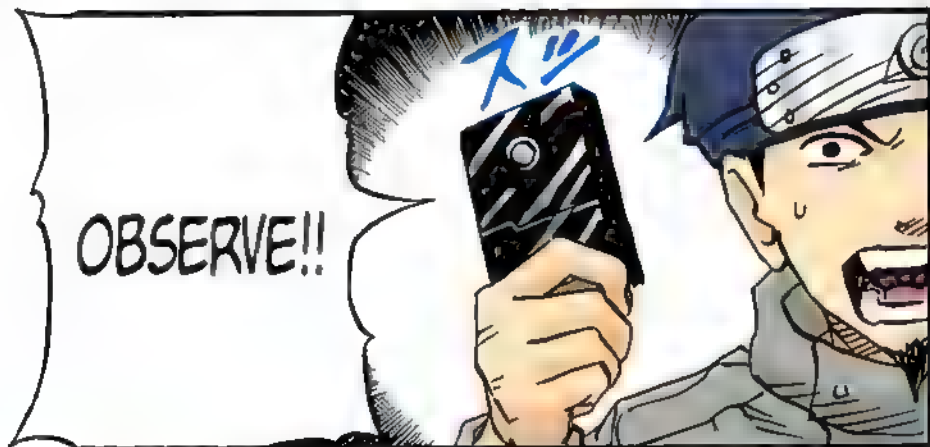


!!











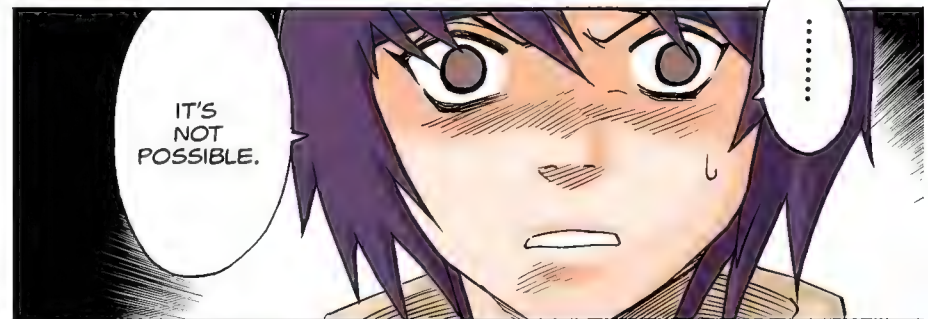
THE
THREE
NINJA
FROM THE
LAND OF
SAND...

...HAVE
ALREADY
COMPLETED
THE SECOND
EXAM.

THIS IS
UN-
PRECEDENTED!

UNHEARD
OF!

IN
JUST
97
MINUTES...



IT'S
NOT
POSSIBLE.

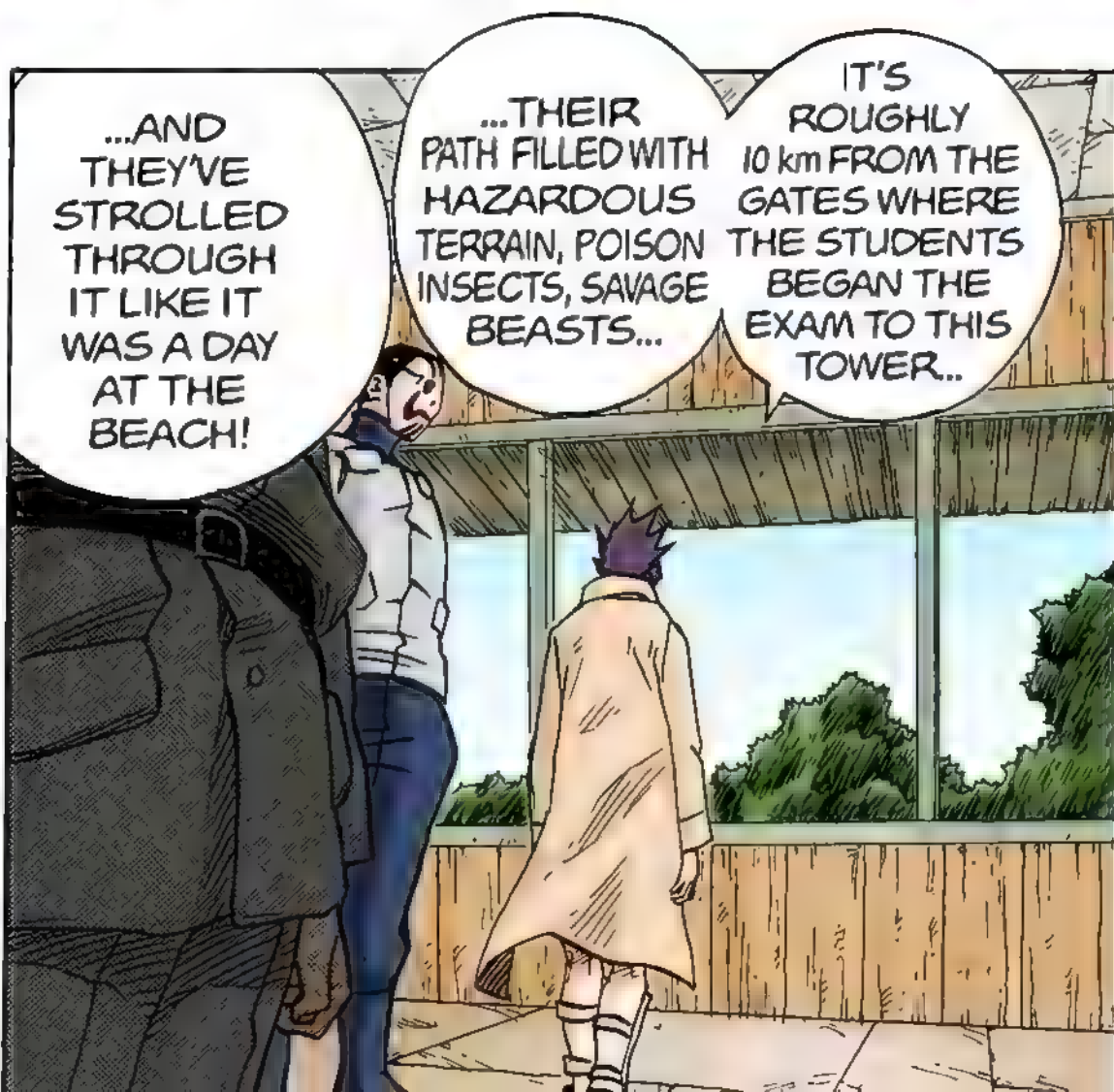
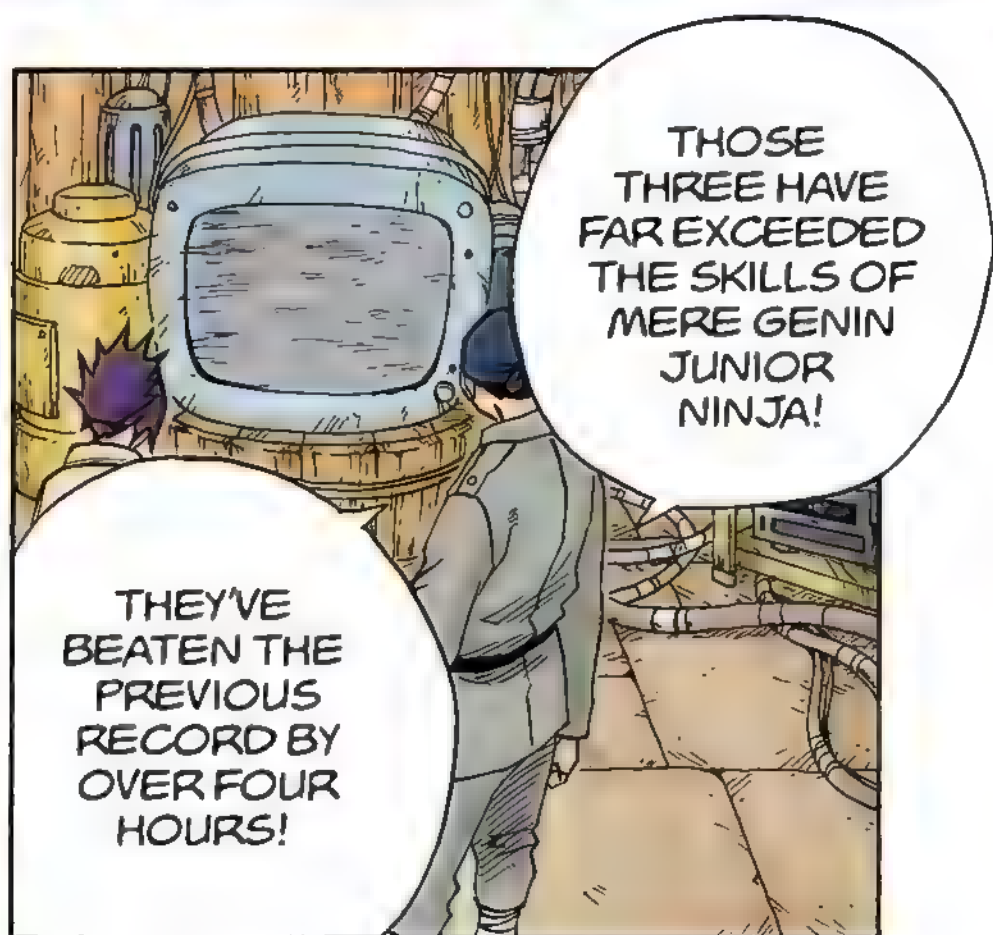
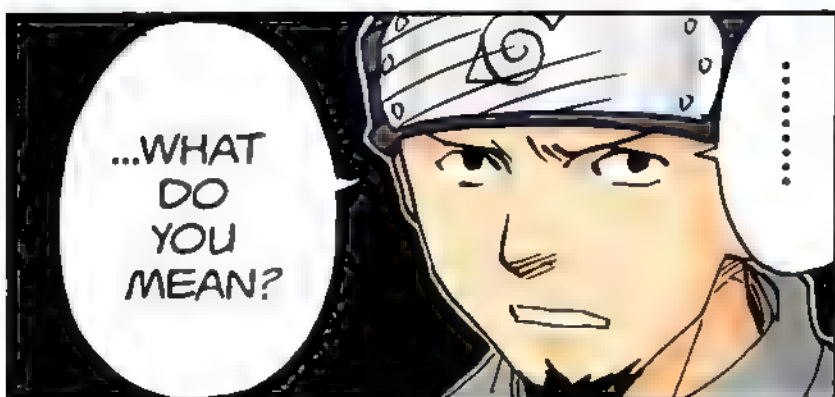
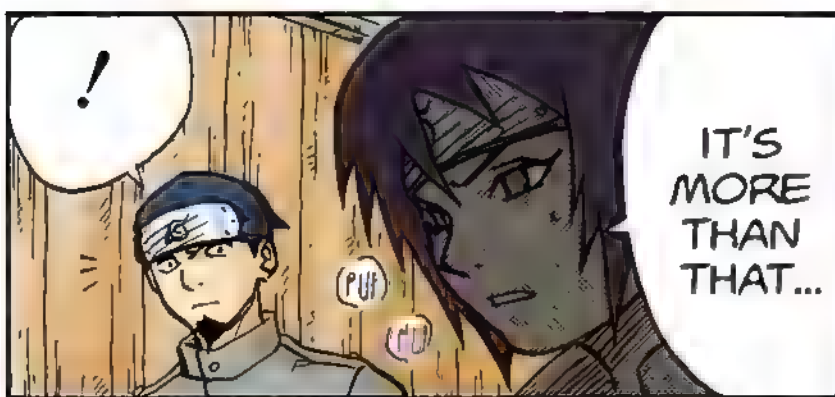
.....

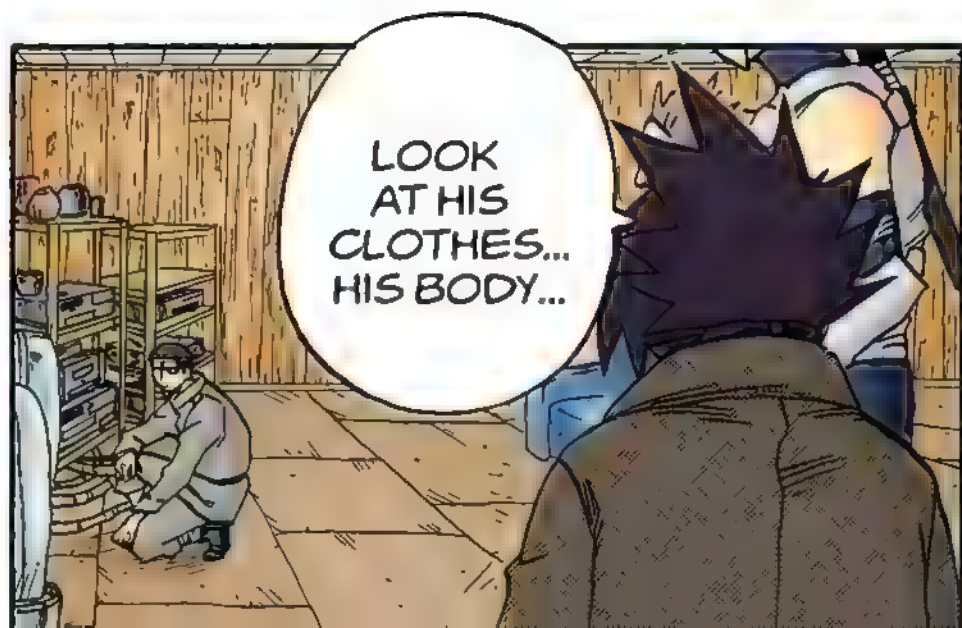
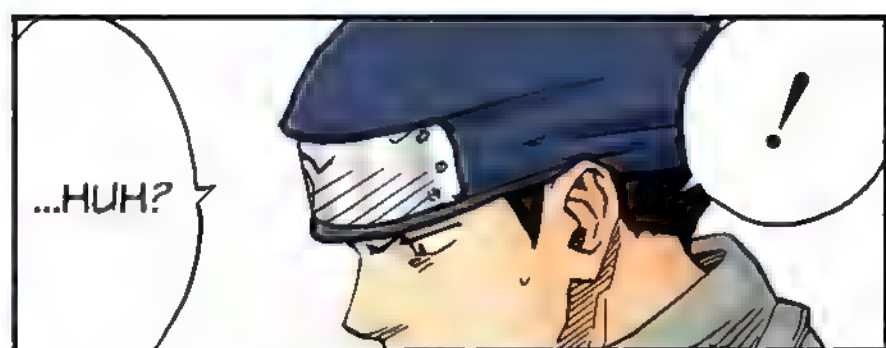


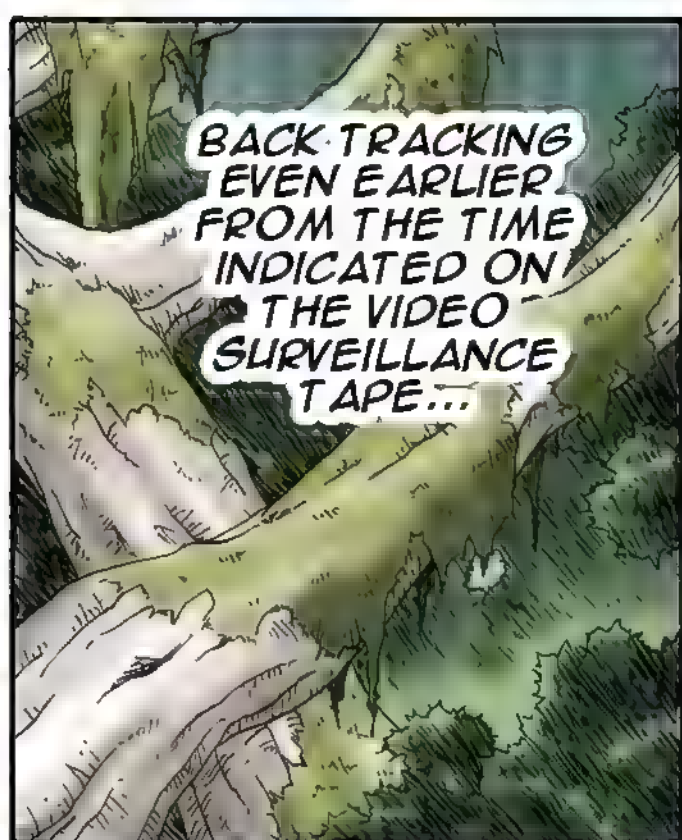
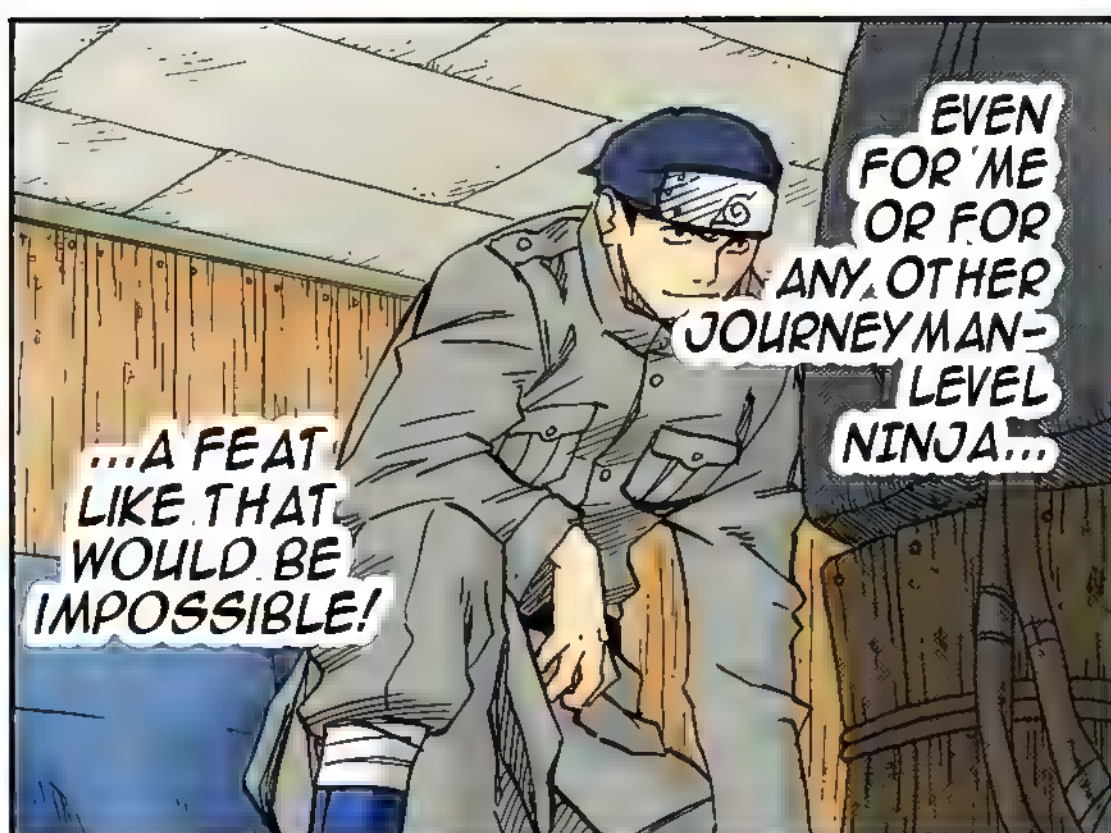
ナンバー



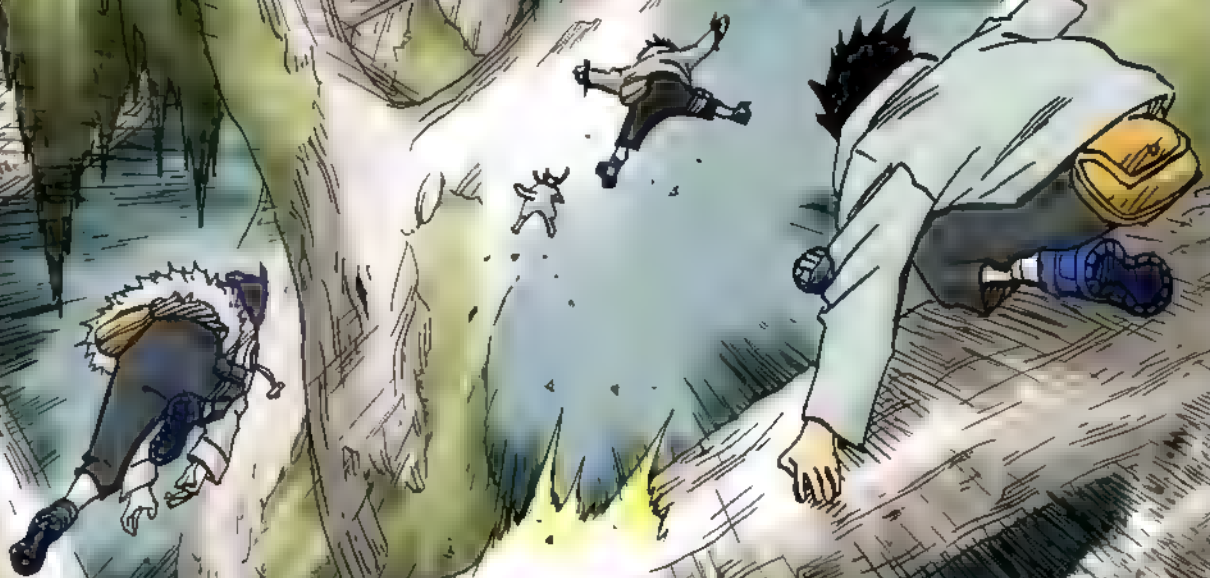
58 : WITNESSES!!







DAY ONE,
APPROXIMATELY
50 MINUTES
AFTER THE
START
OF THE
SECOND
EXAM...



WE'LL BE
CELEBRATING
AT THE
TOWER
IN NO
TIME!!



WE REALLY
LUCKED OUT...
THE FIRST
PEOPLE
TO FALL INTO
THE TRAP WE
SET WERE
CARRYING
THE EARTH
SCROLL
WE NEEDED!

...DON'T
WE,
AKAMARU?!

WOOHOO!!
SURVIVING IN
THESE WOODS
IS AS EASY AS
I THOUGHT!
WE RULE...



THESE
WOODS ARE
CRAWLING
WITH ENEMIES,
YOU KNOW!



CHILL OUT!
IT'S WAY
TOO
EARLY TO
CELEBRATE!

...MAYBE
SHINO
HAS A
POINT,
TOO!

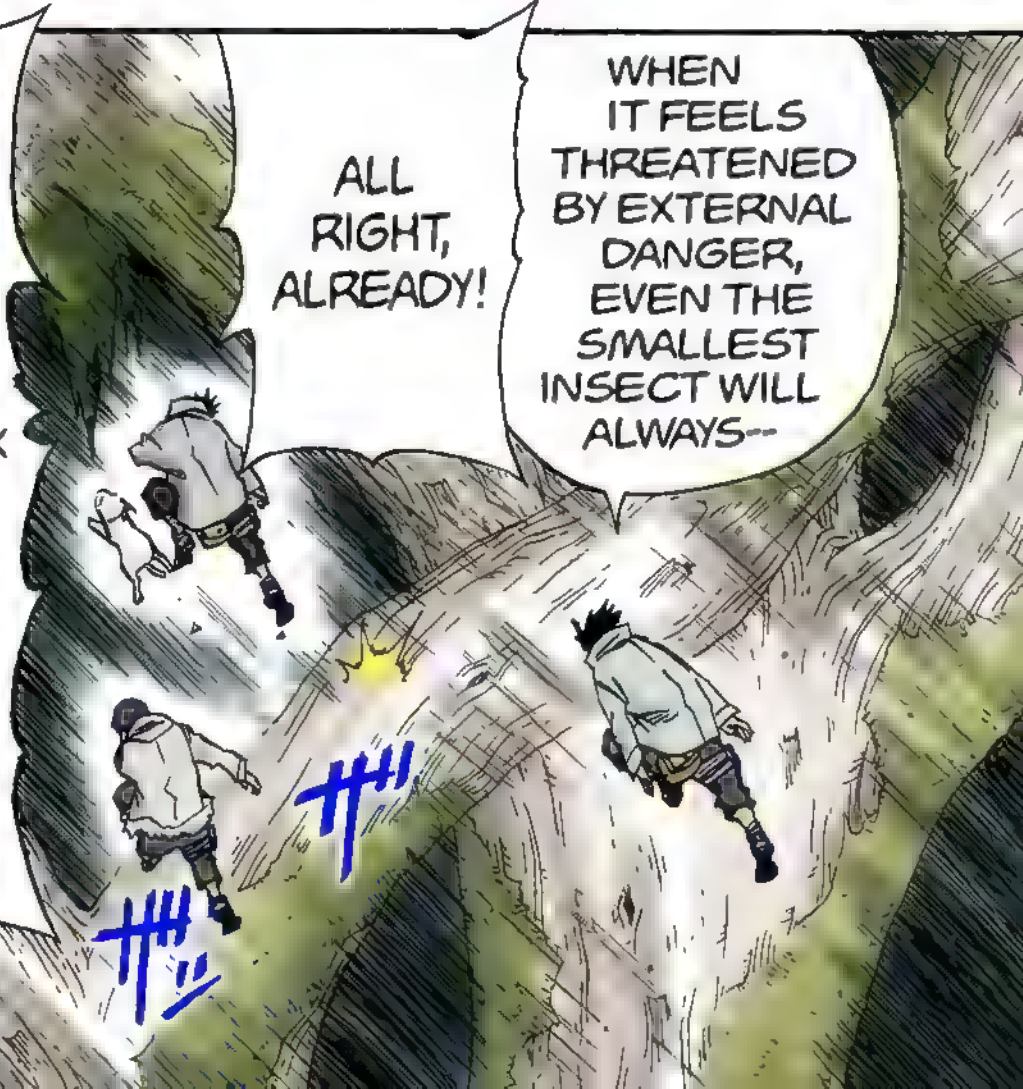
B-BUT...
BUT...

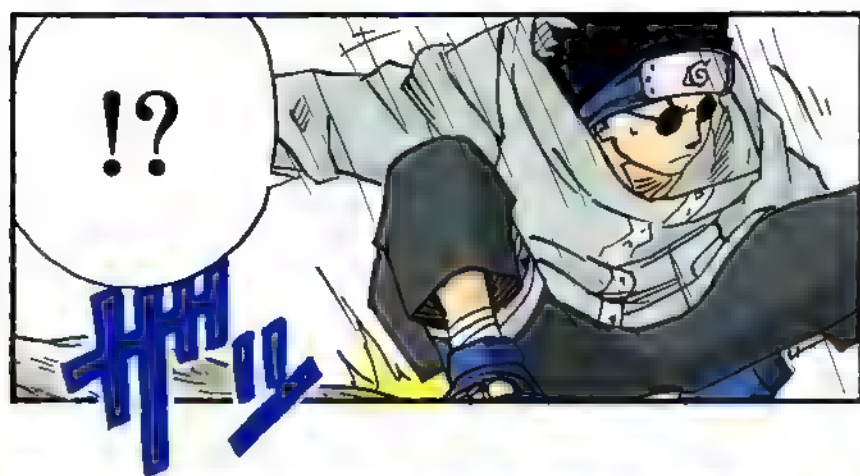
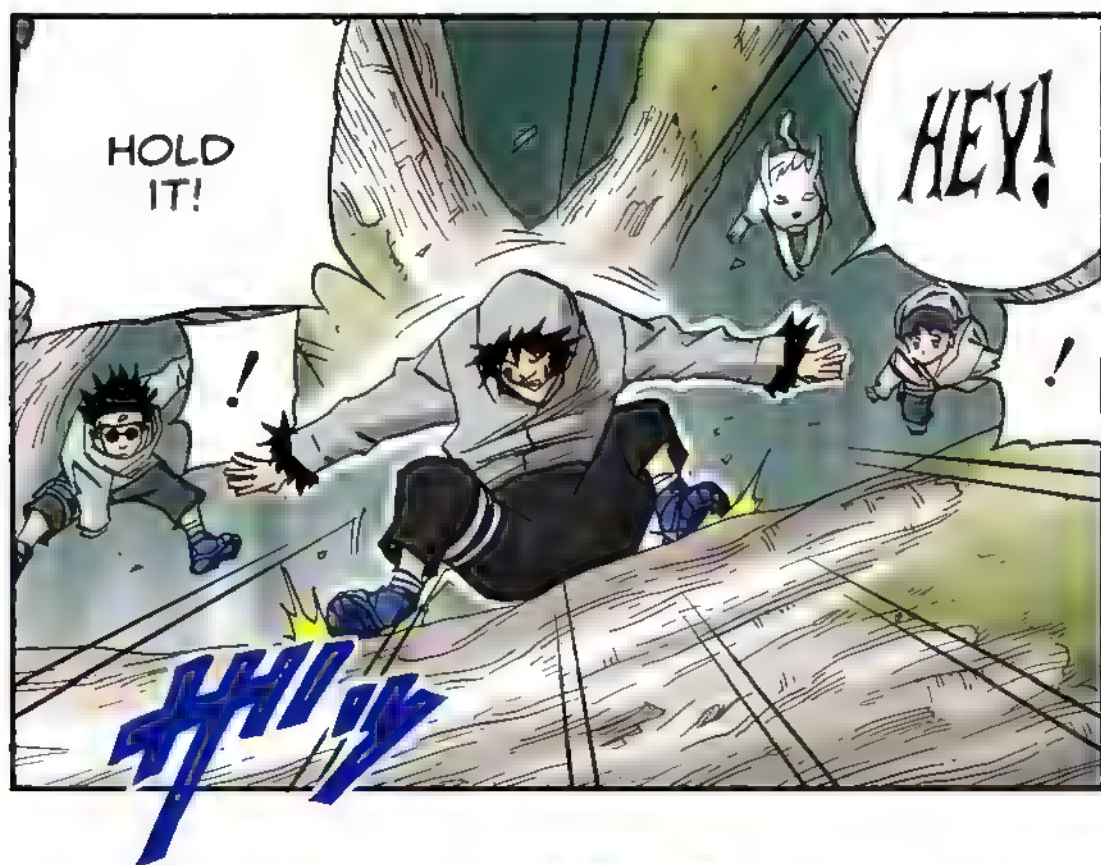
I GET IT...
BUT HOW
YOU ALWAYS
MANAGE TO
TWIST
EVERYTHING
AROUND
UNTIL IT
RELATES BACK
TO INSECTS
AMAZES ME!

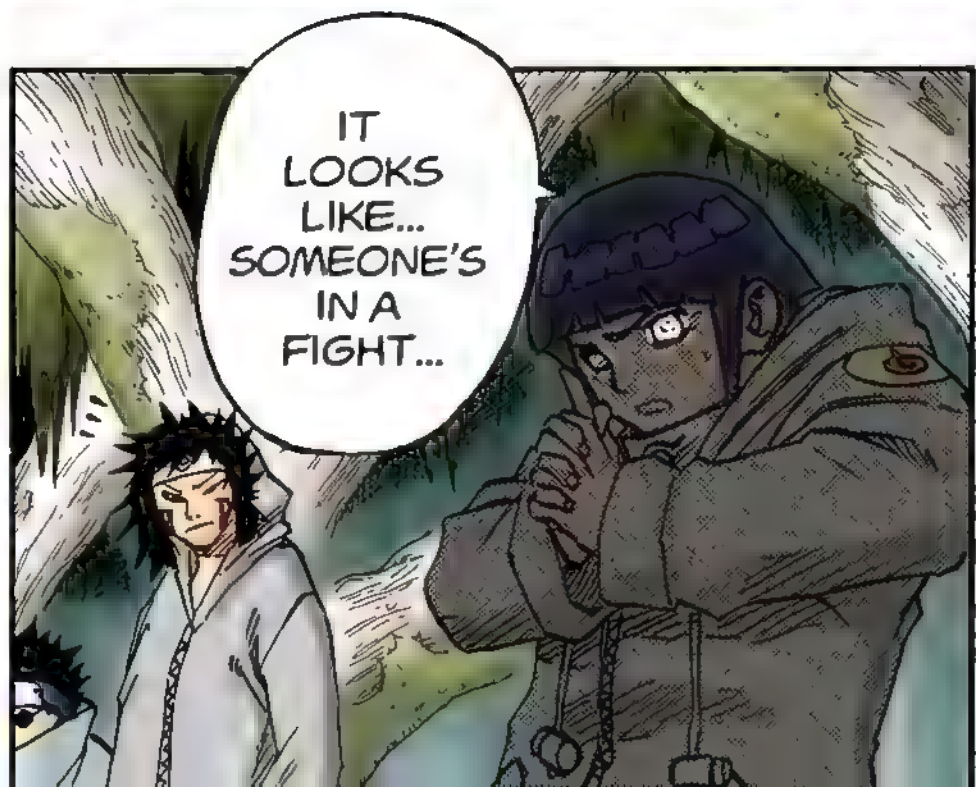
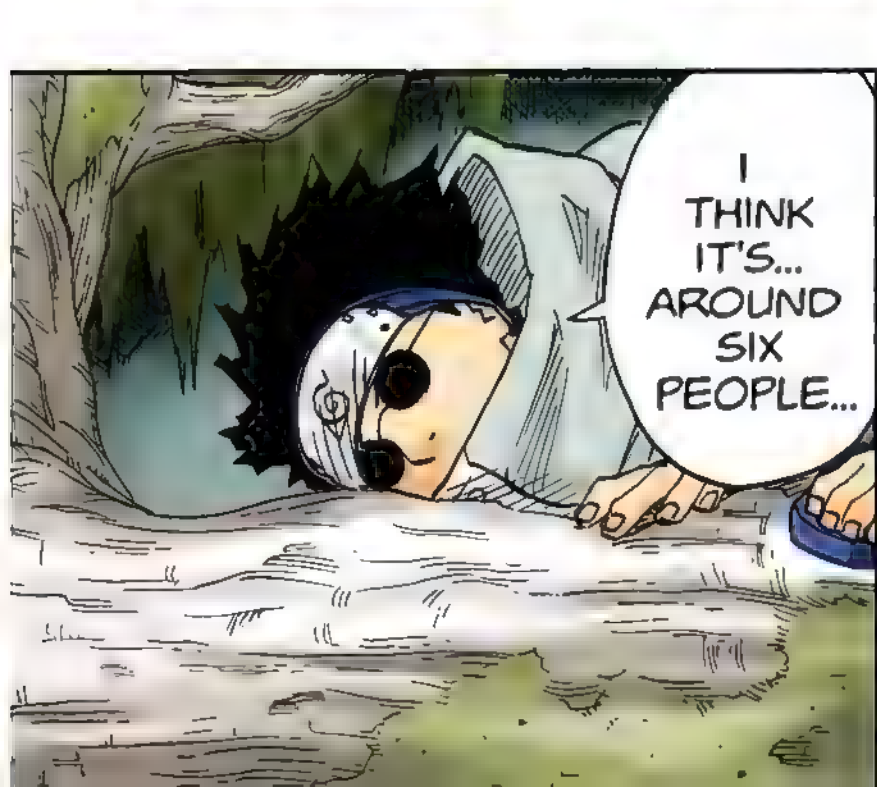
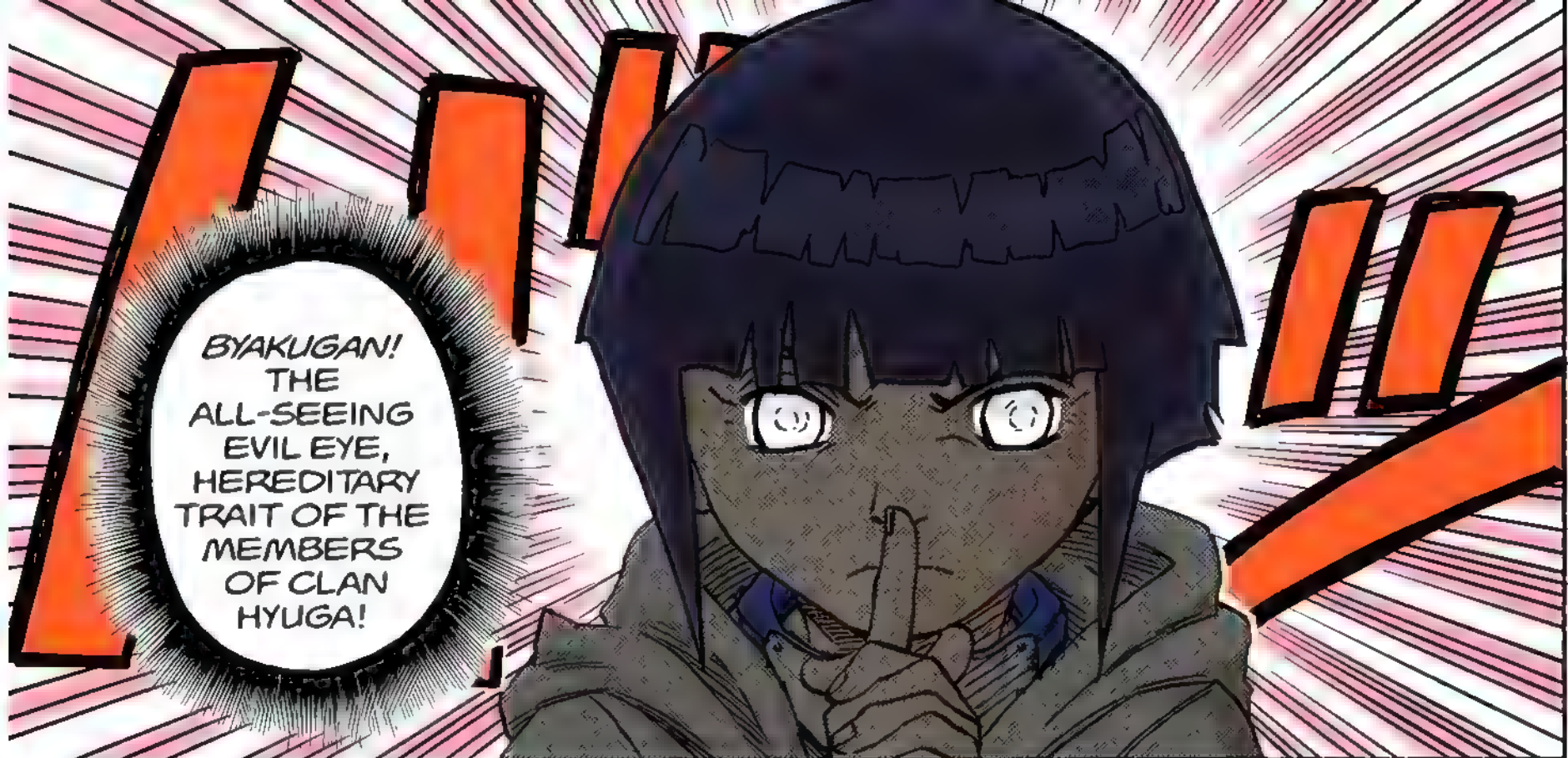
AND, JUST
FOR THE
RECORD, I
AM STILL THE
LEADER OF
THIS TEAM!

ALL
RIGHT,
ALREADY!

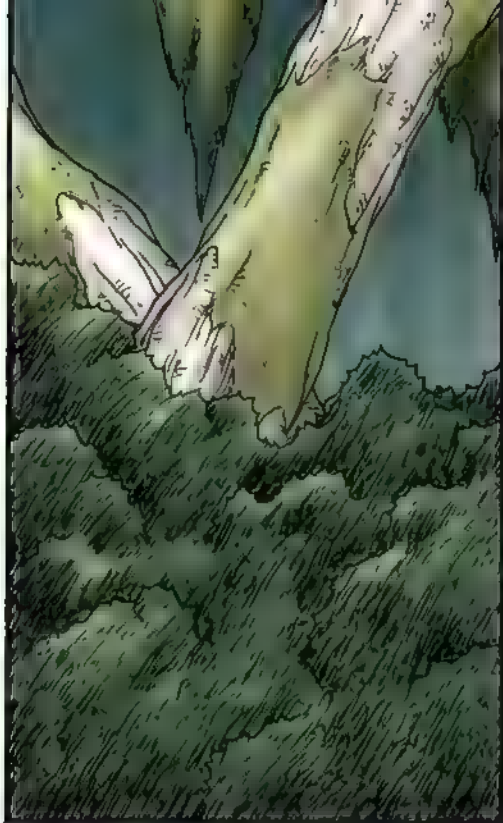
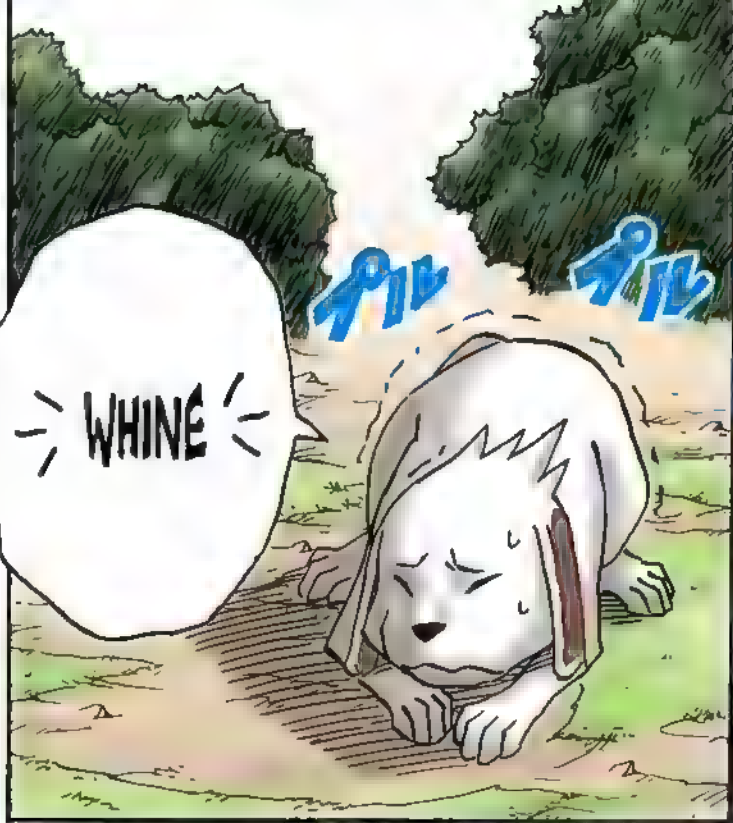
WHEN
IT FEELS
THREATENED
BY EXTERNAL
DANGER,
EVEN THE
SMALLEST
INSECT WILL
ALWAYS--

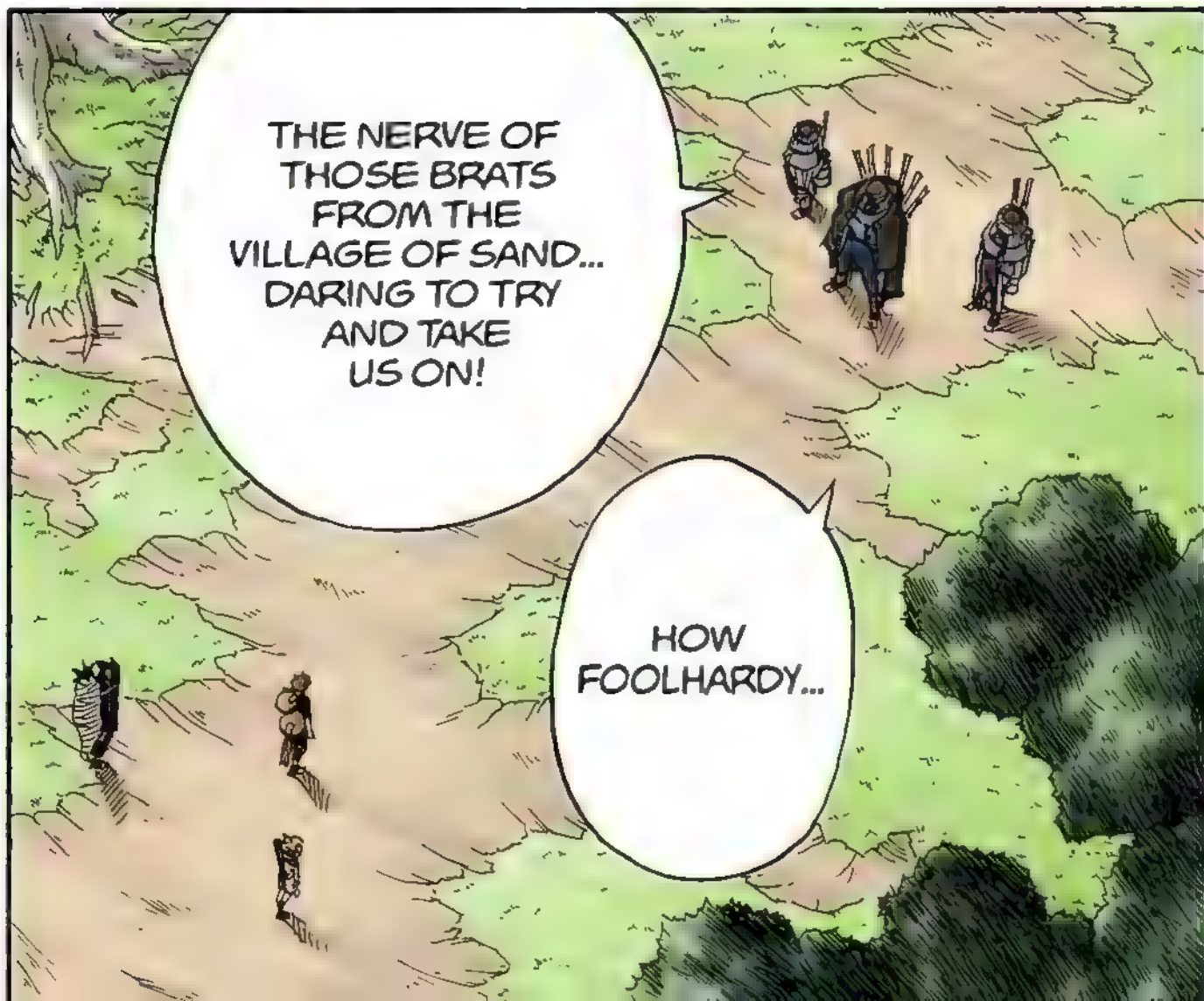




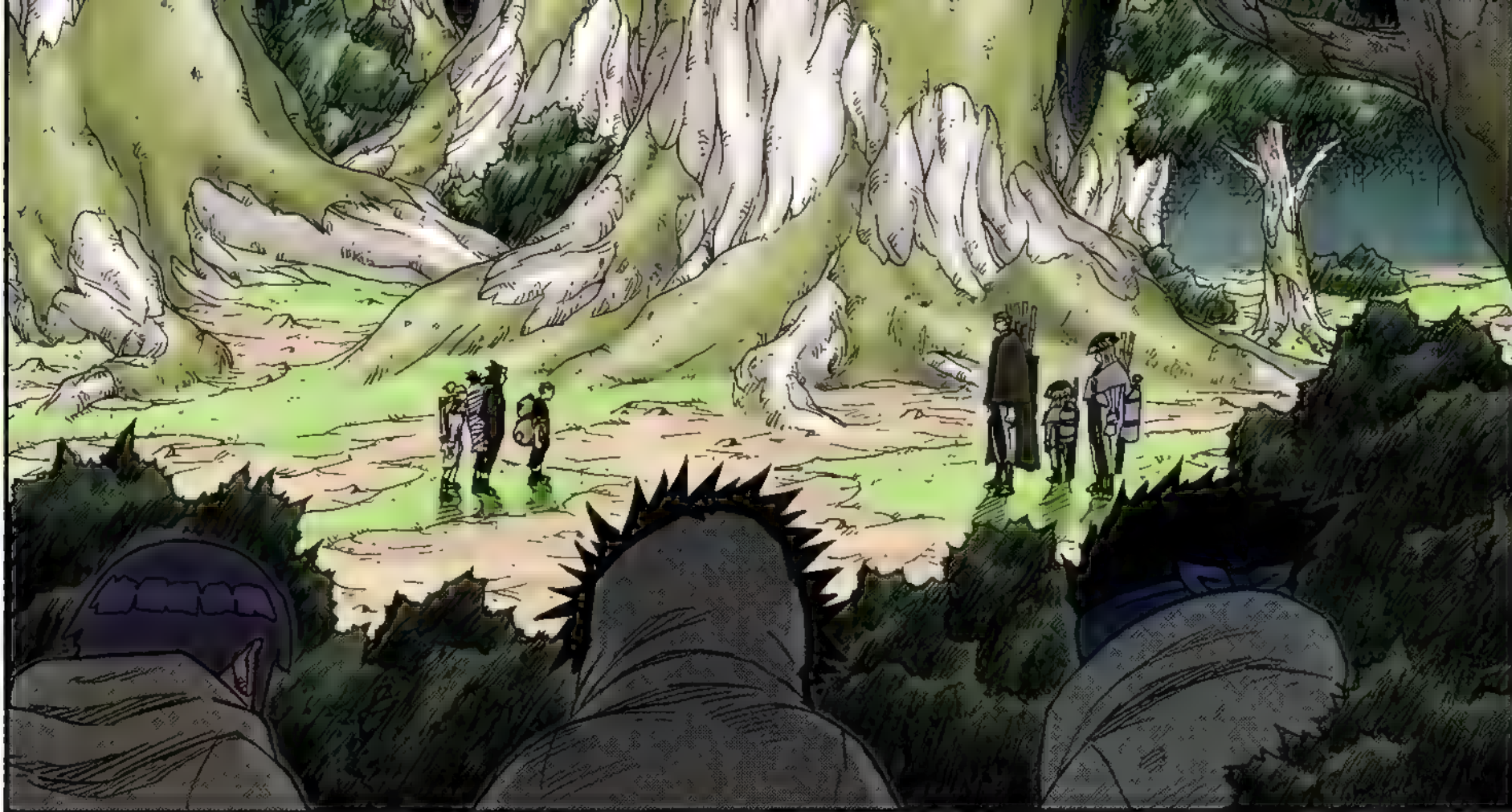














...EVEN
IF YOU
WOW THEM
BACK IN
THE
VILLAGE
OF RAIN!

ARE YOU
GOING TO
FIGHT US...
OR TALK US
TO DEATH?
WE DON'T
TAKE ORDERS
FROM FOSSILS
LIKE YOU...



PREPARE
TO MEET
YOUR
MAKER!



HEY, GAARA!
I THOUGHT WE
HAD AGREED WE
WOULDN'T FIGHT
ANYONE UNTIL
WE FOUND OUT
IF THEY HAD THE
SCROLL WE NEED!

MAYBE SOMEONE ELSE HAS ALREADY AMBUSHED THEM... AND NOW THEY DON'T HAVE EITHER!



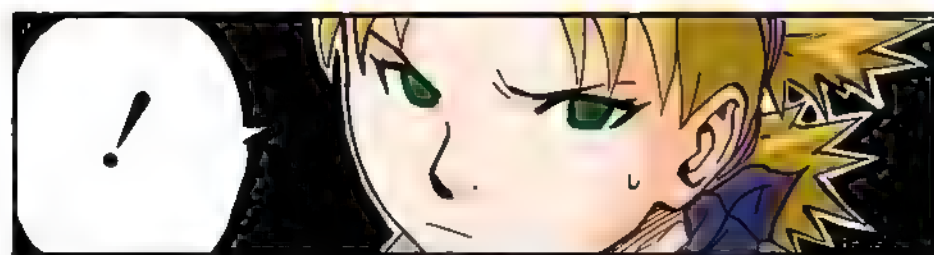
!

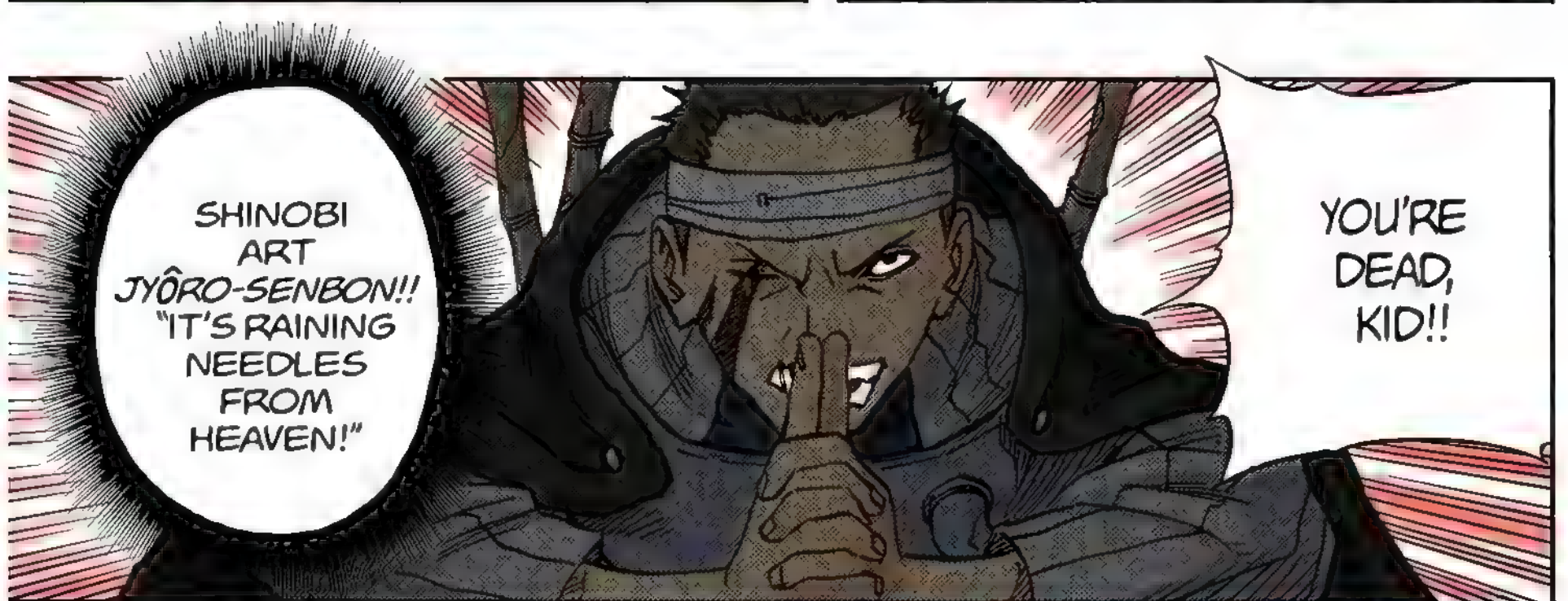
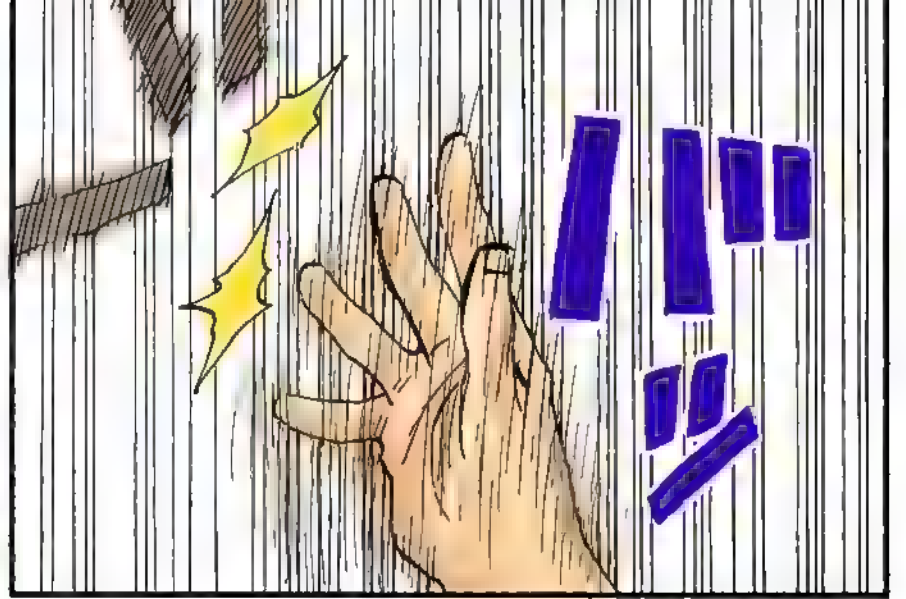


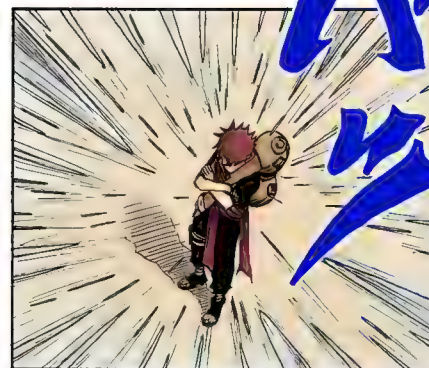
I
DON'T
WANT TO
HEAR
IT!

WE
SHOULD
ONLY FIGHT
IF THERE'S
SOMETHING
TO BE
GAINED!

THERE'S
NO POINT IN
ATTACKING
IF WE CAN'T
PROFIT
BY IT...

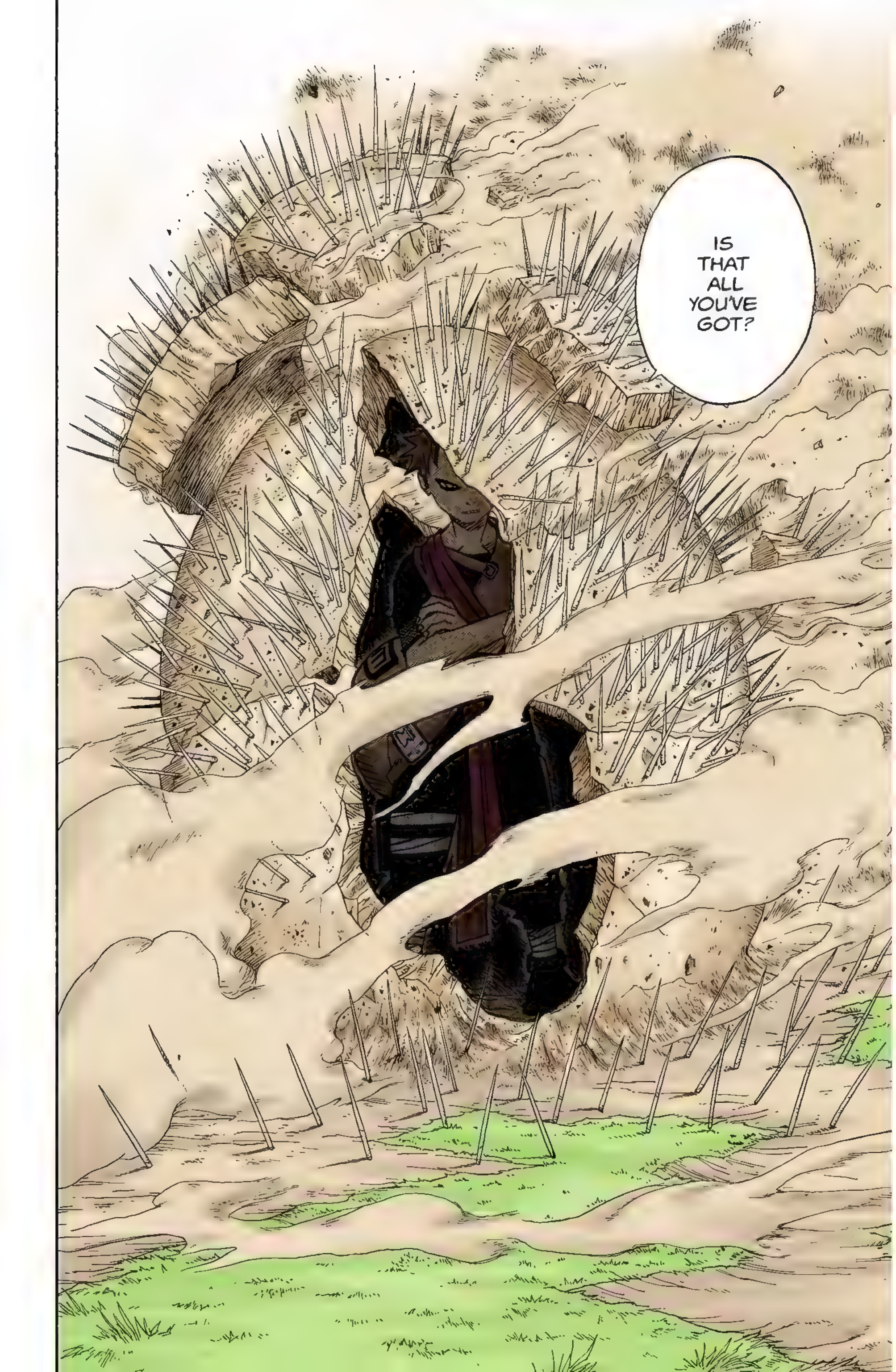




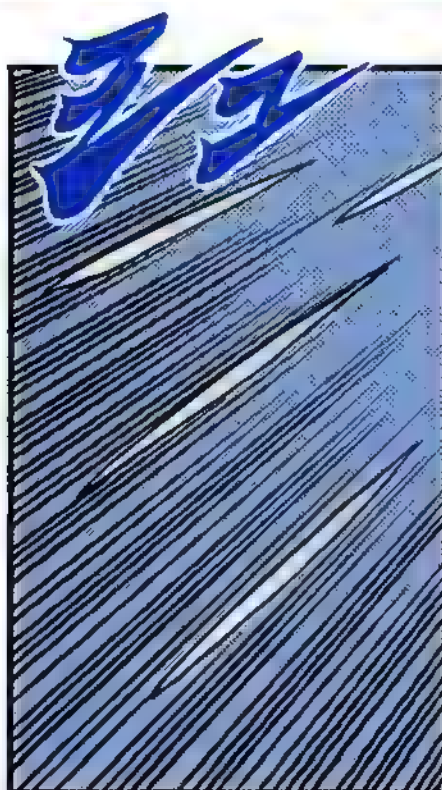
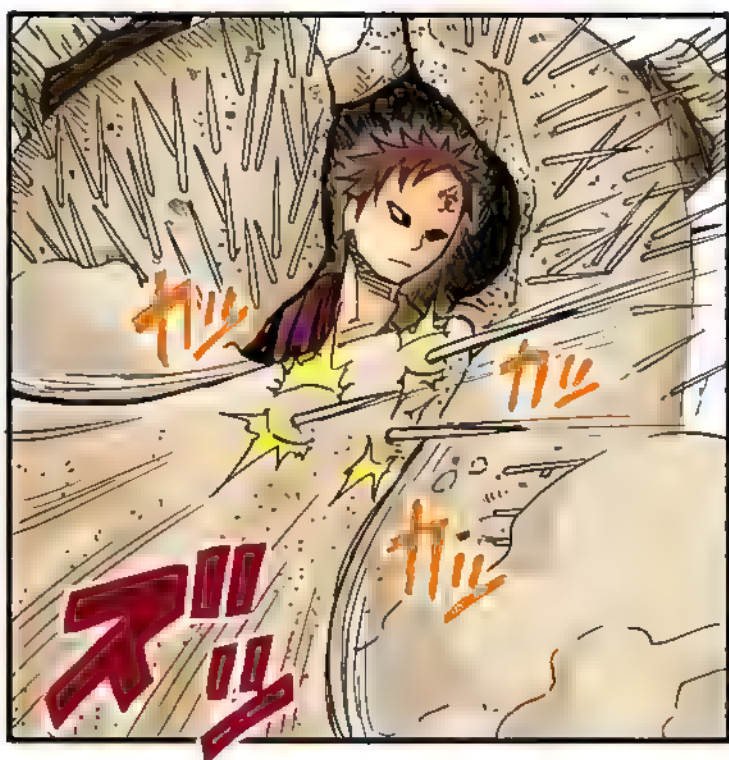
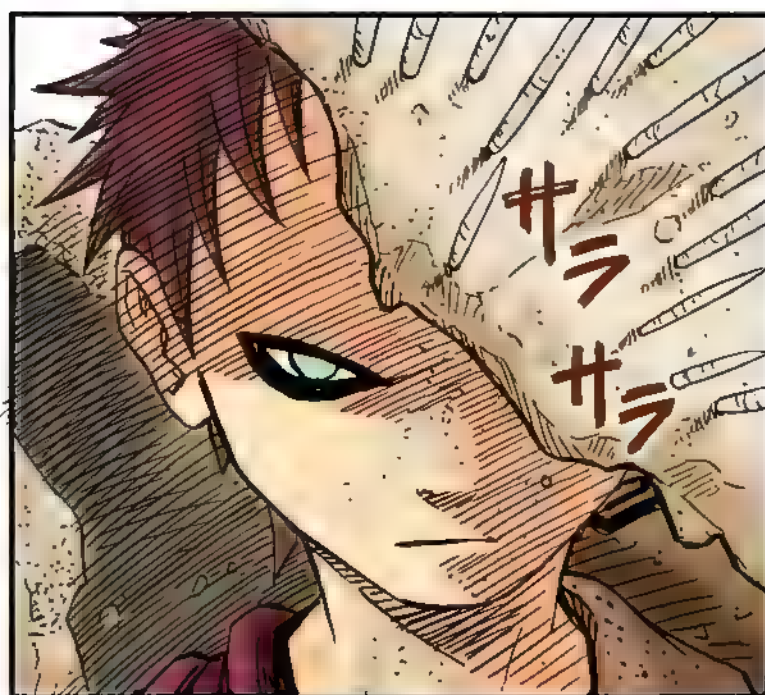


YOU'RE COMPLETELY SURROUNDED. NO GAPS... NO BLIND SPOTS. ALL 1,000 OF THOSE NEEDLES WILL SWARM IN RESPONSE TO MY CHAKRA, SEEKING YOU OUT LIKE MISSILES THAT HAVE LOCKED ONTO YOUR SIGNATURE!!



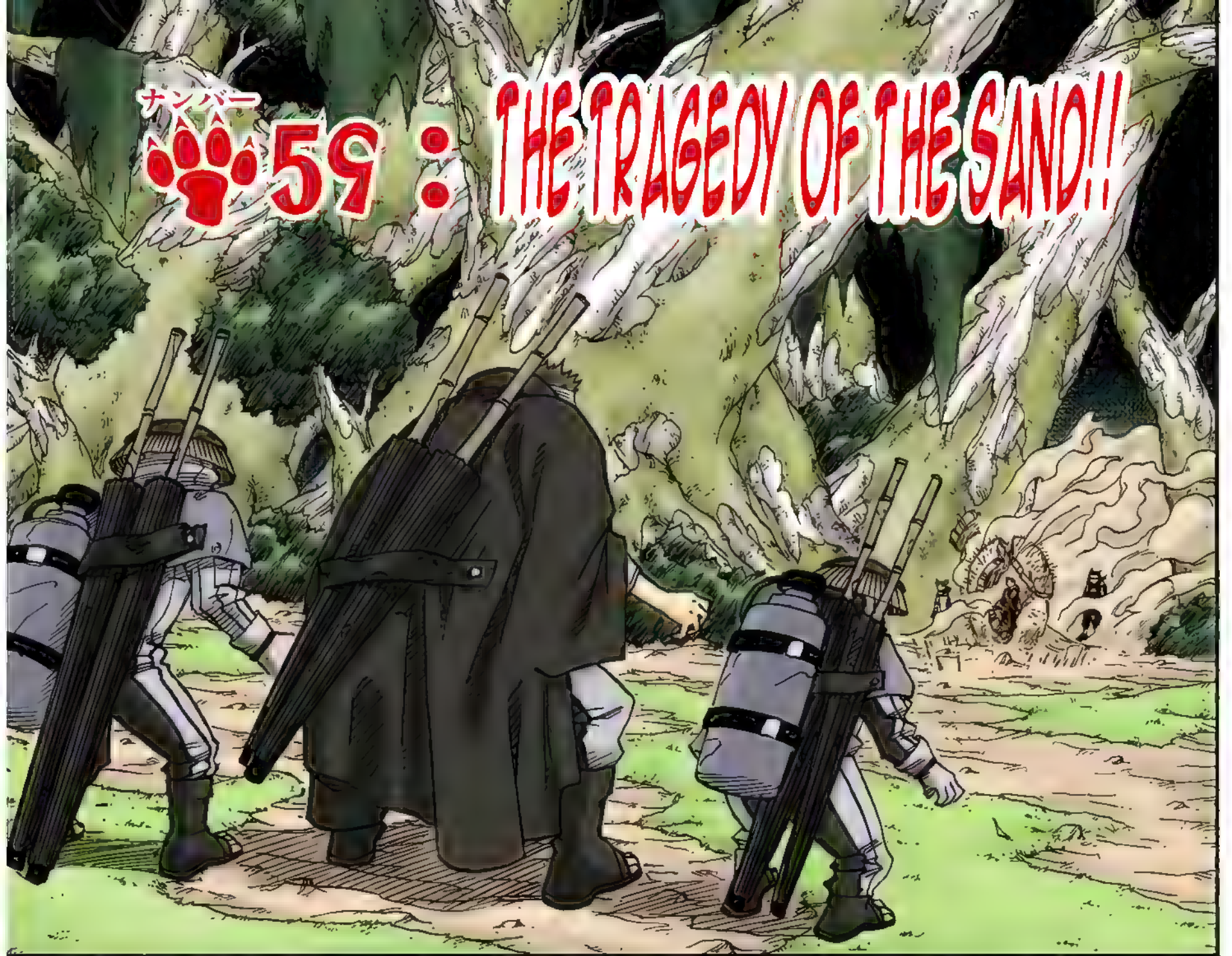


IS
THAT
ALL
YOU'VE
GOT?



ナンバー

59 : THE TRAGEDY OF THE SAND!!



.....



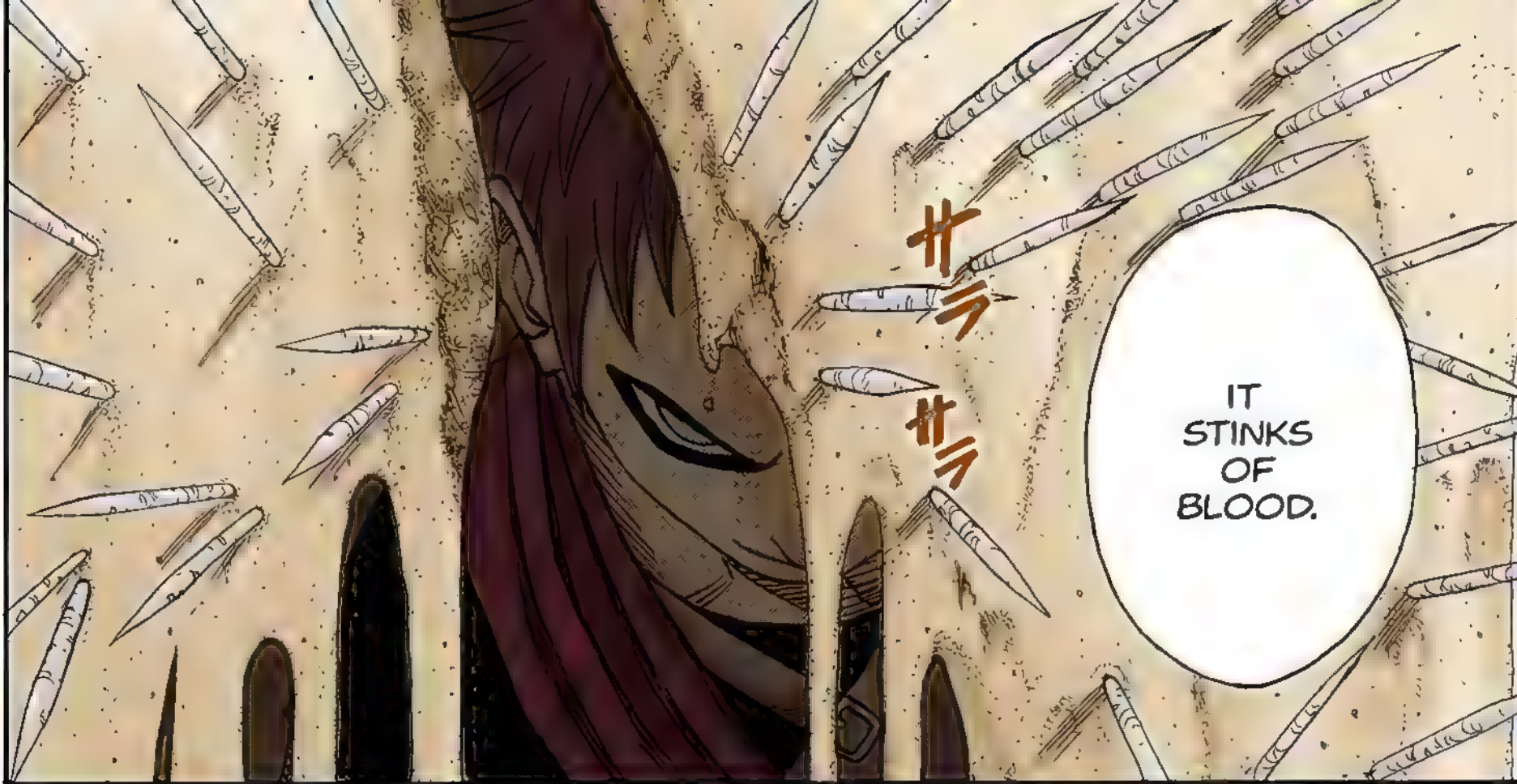
WHAT
SMELL?



HIS
CHAKRA...
IT'S
IMMENSE...!

AND
THAT
SAND...
THE
SMELL
OF...





IT
STINKS
OF
BLOOD.

EXACTLY.
INFINITELY
MALLEABLE...

...AN
IMPENETRABLE
DEFENSE!!

A
WALL
OF
SAND...?

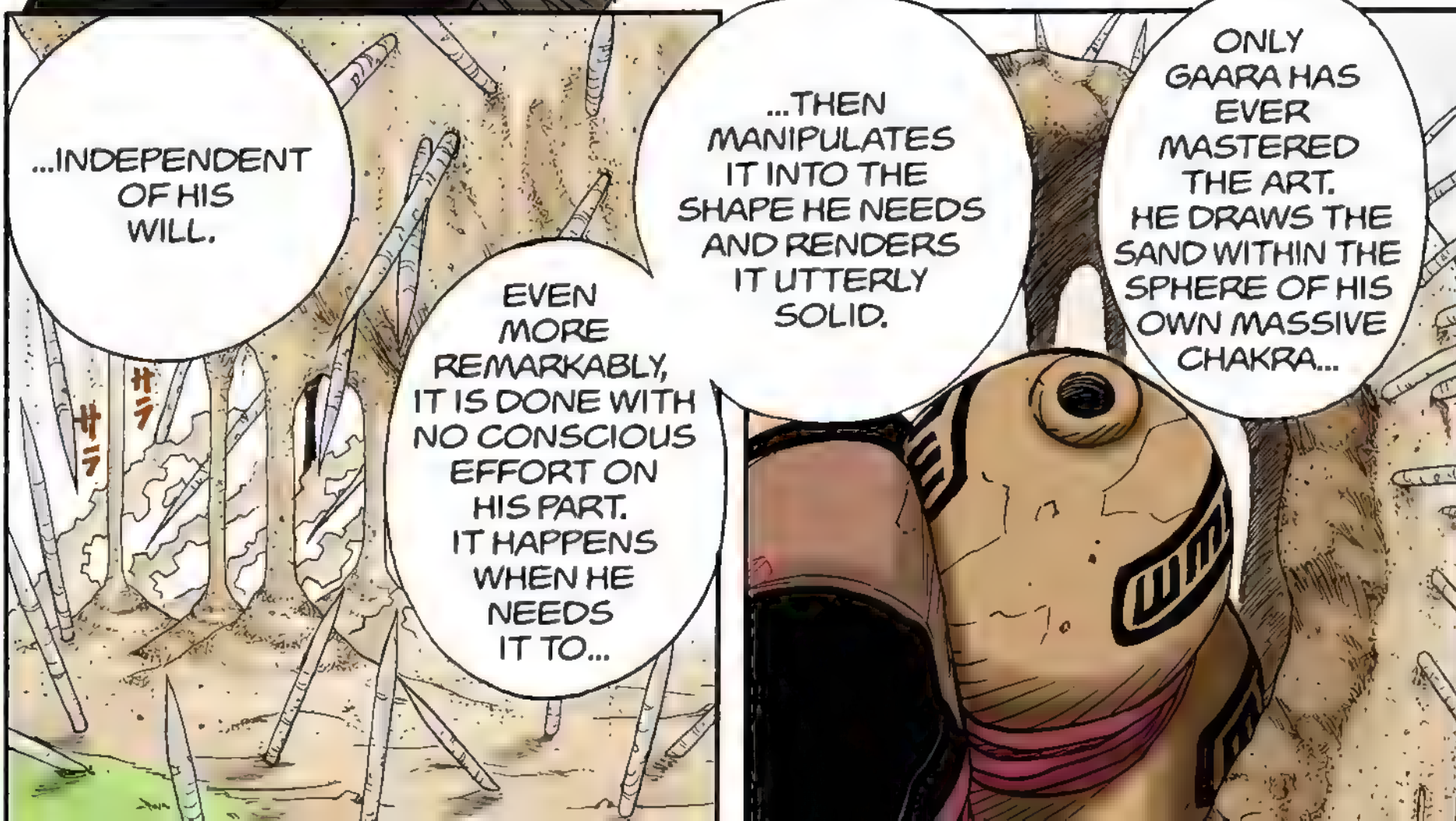
AH--!

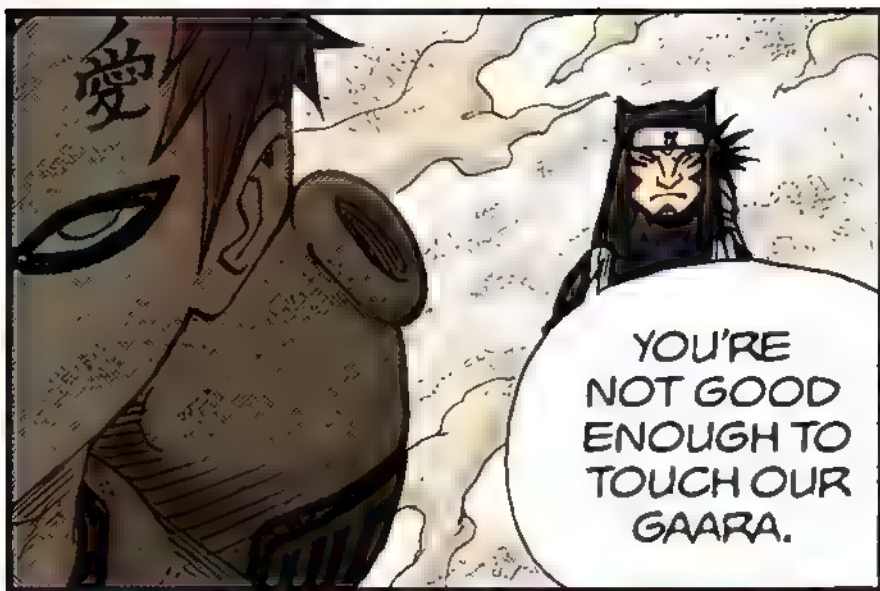
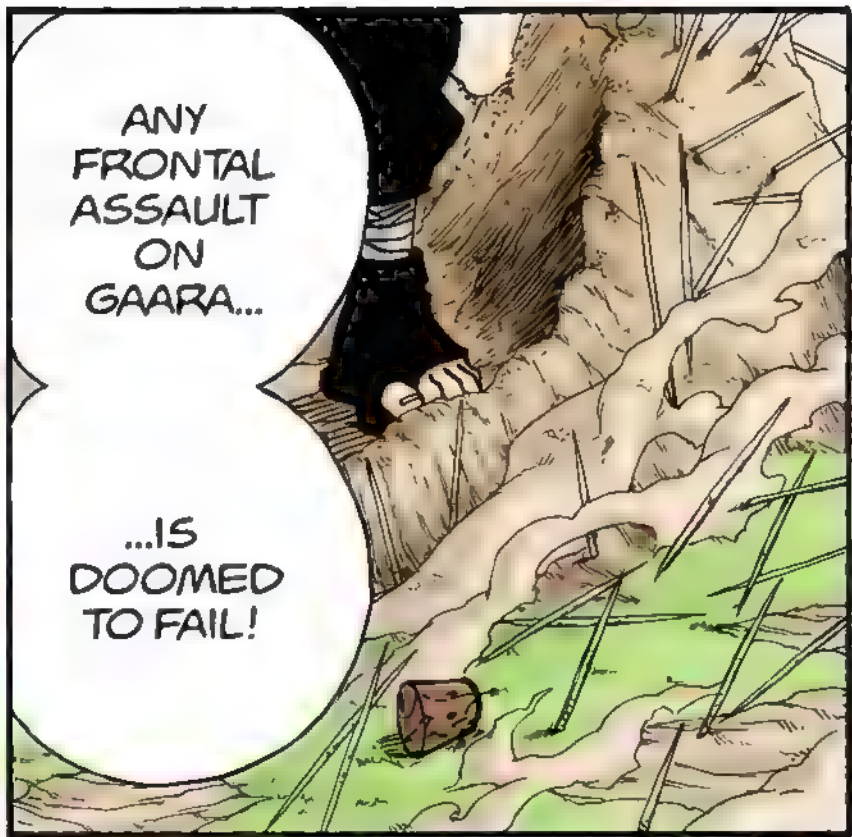
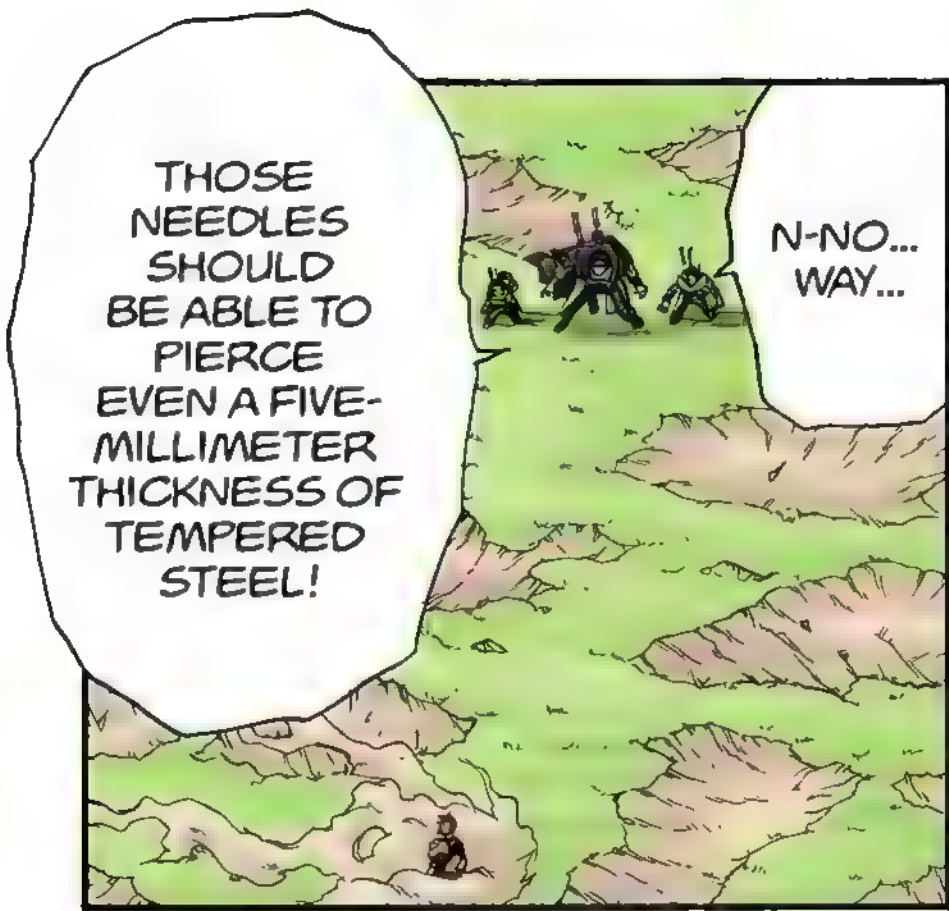
...INDEPENDENT
OF HIS
WILL.

EVEN
MORE
REMARKABLY,
IT IS DONE WITH
NO CONSCIOUS
EFFORT ON
HIS PART.
IT HAPPENS
WHEN HE
NEEDS
IT TO...

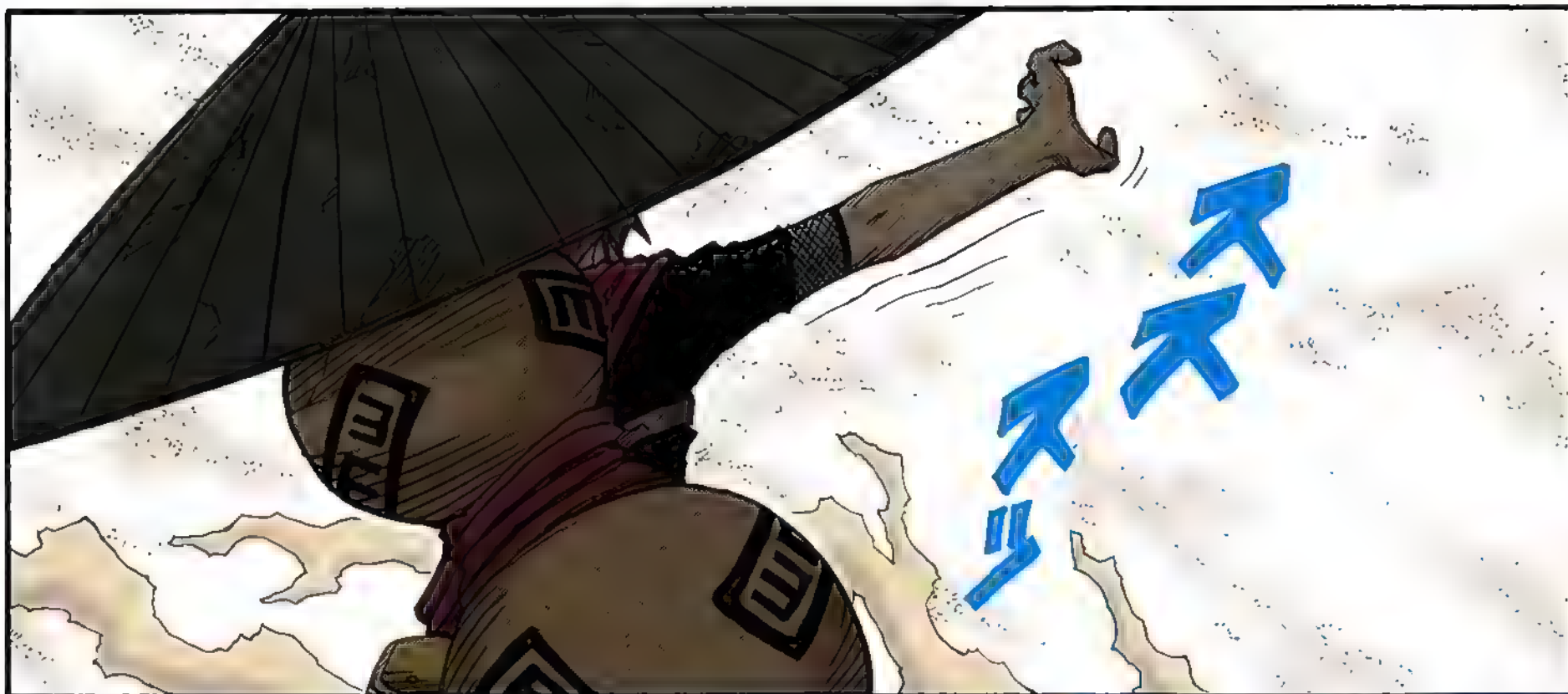
...THEN
MANIPULATES
IT INTO THE
SHAPE HE NEEDS
AND RENDERS
IT UTTERLY
SOLID.

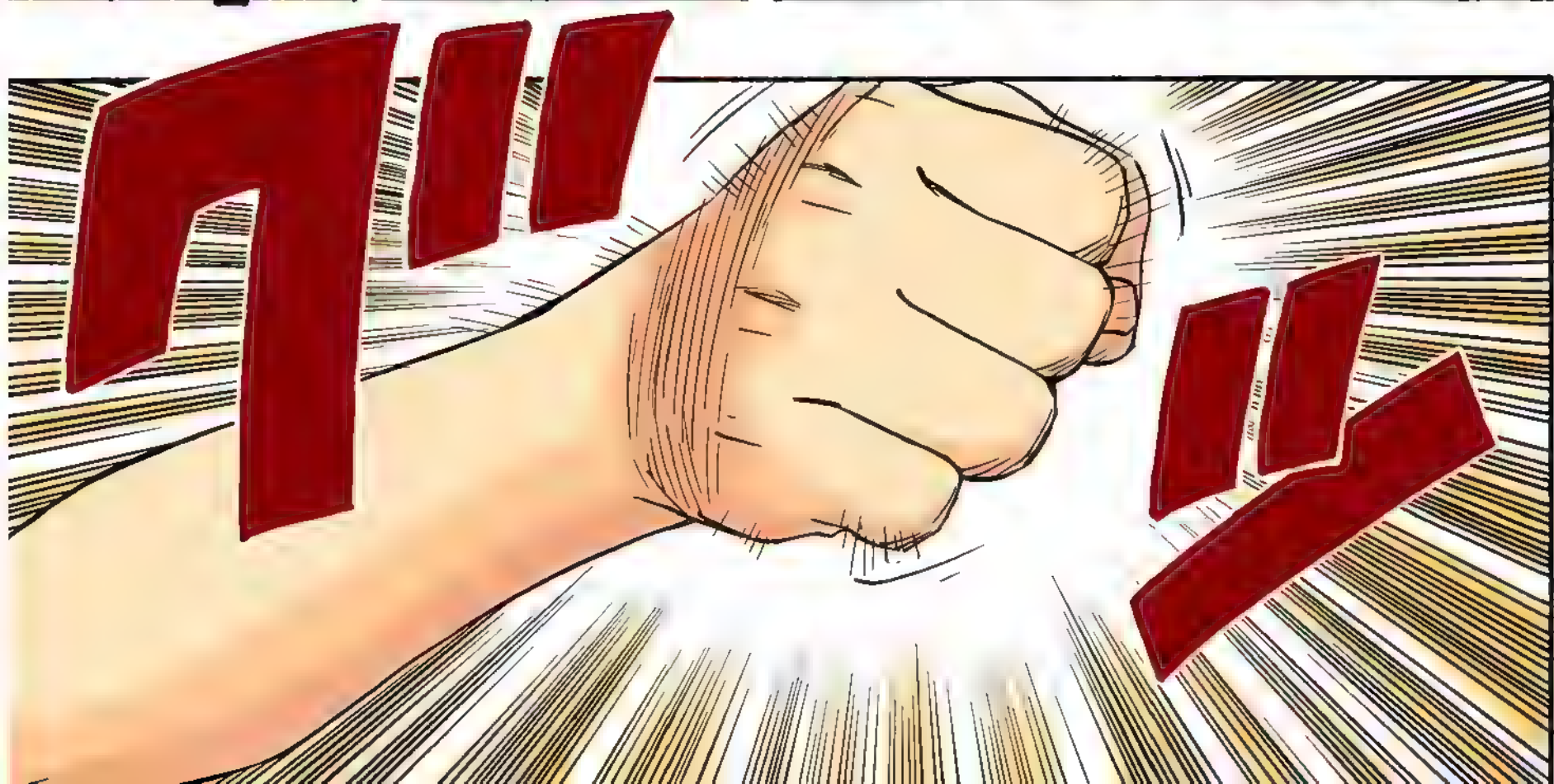
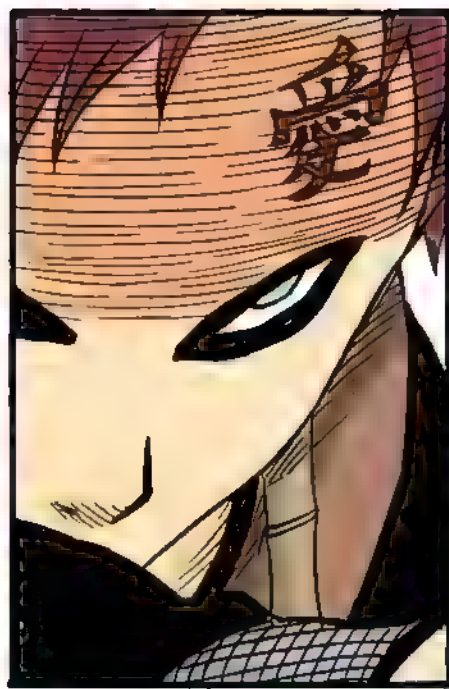
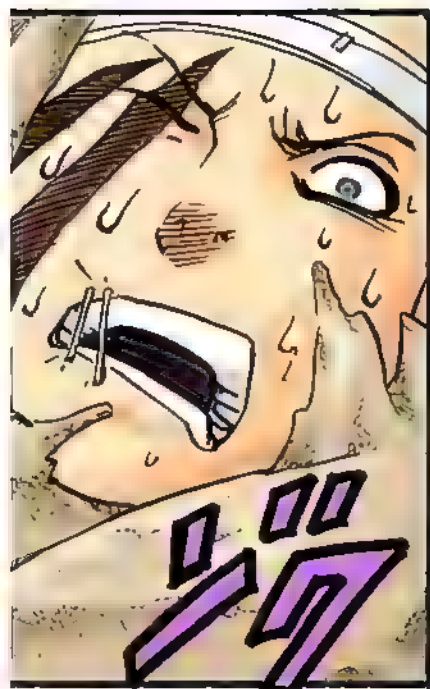
ONLY
GAARA HAS
EVER
MASTERED
THE ART.
HE DRAWS THE
SAND WITHIN THE
SPHERE OF HIS
OWN MASSIVE
CHAKRA...

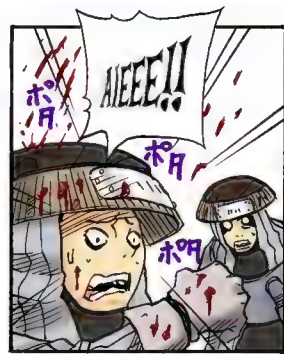
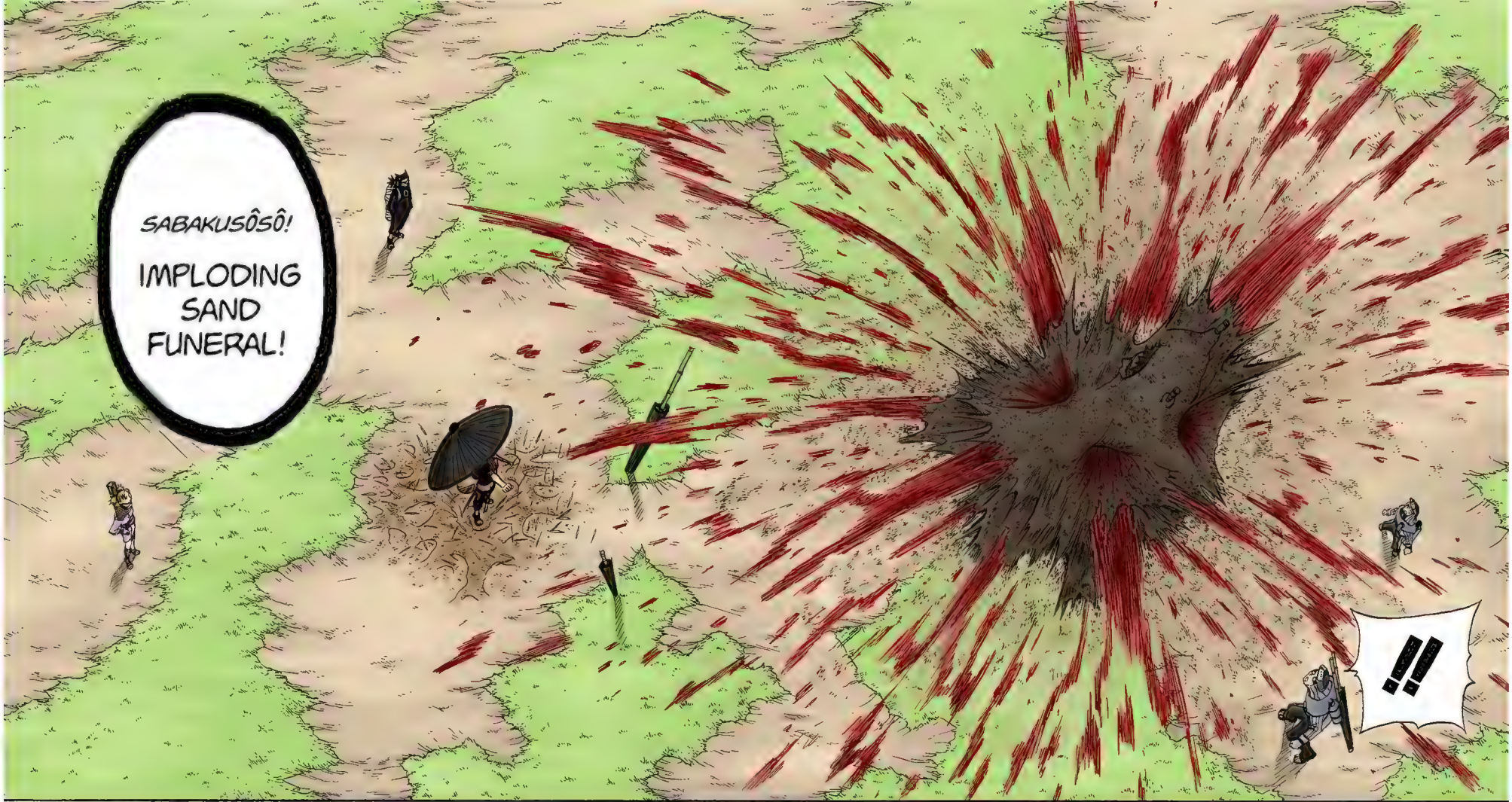


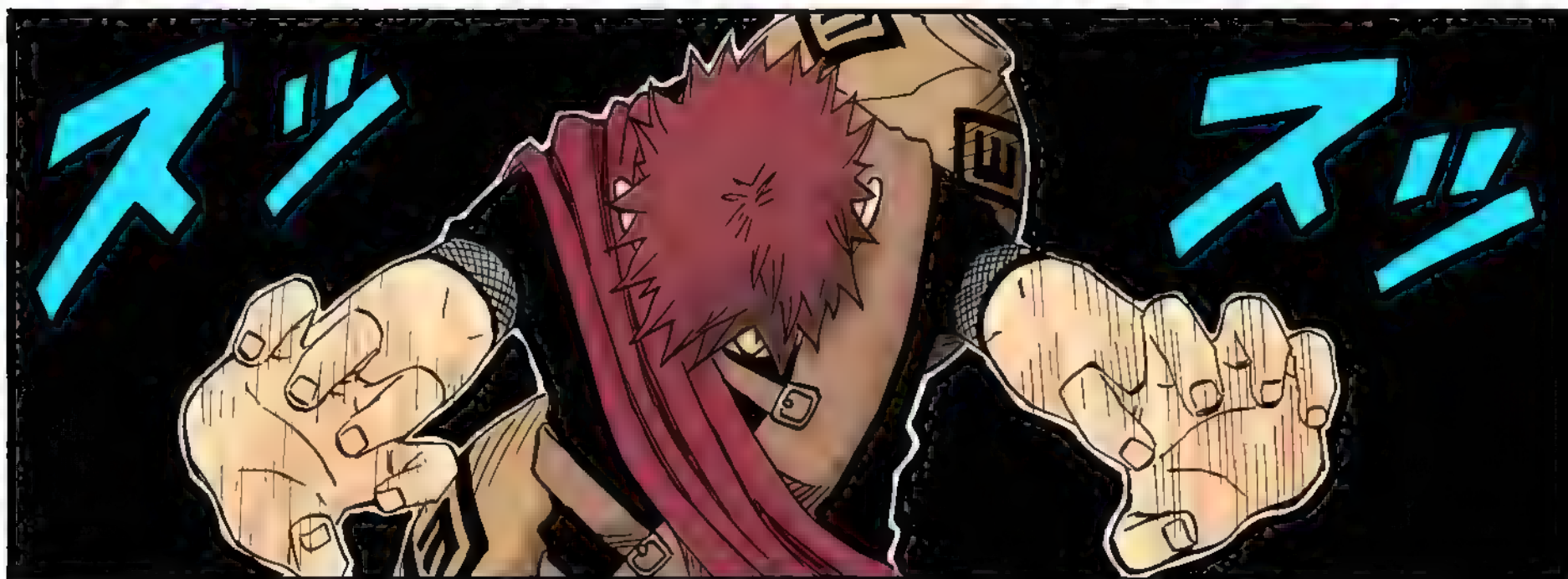
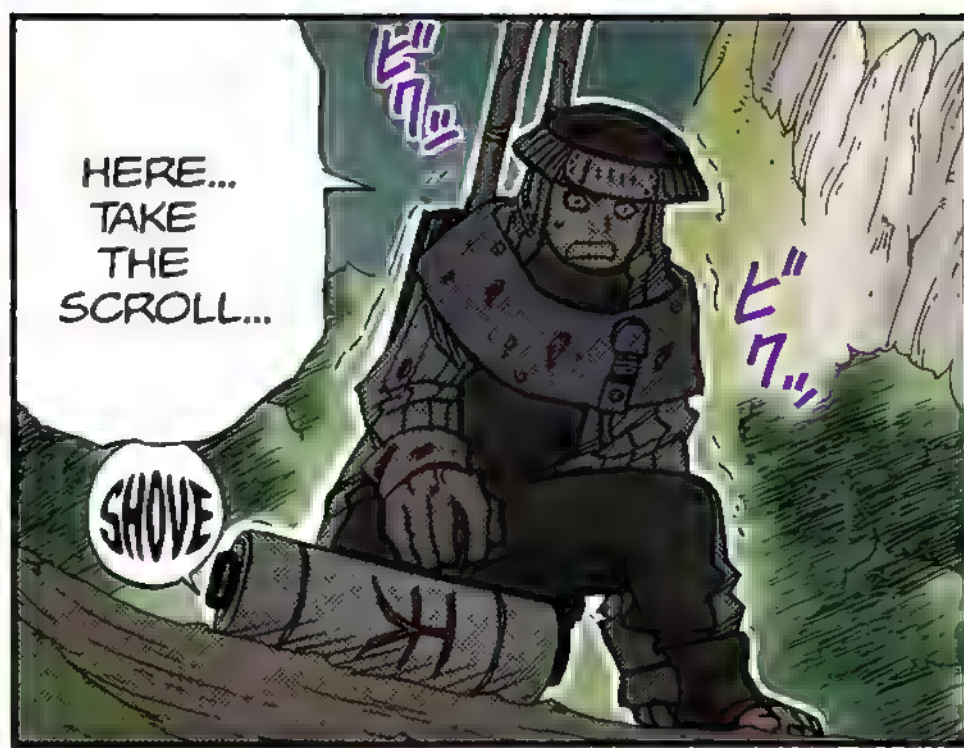
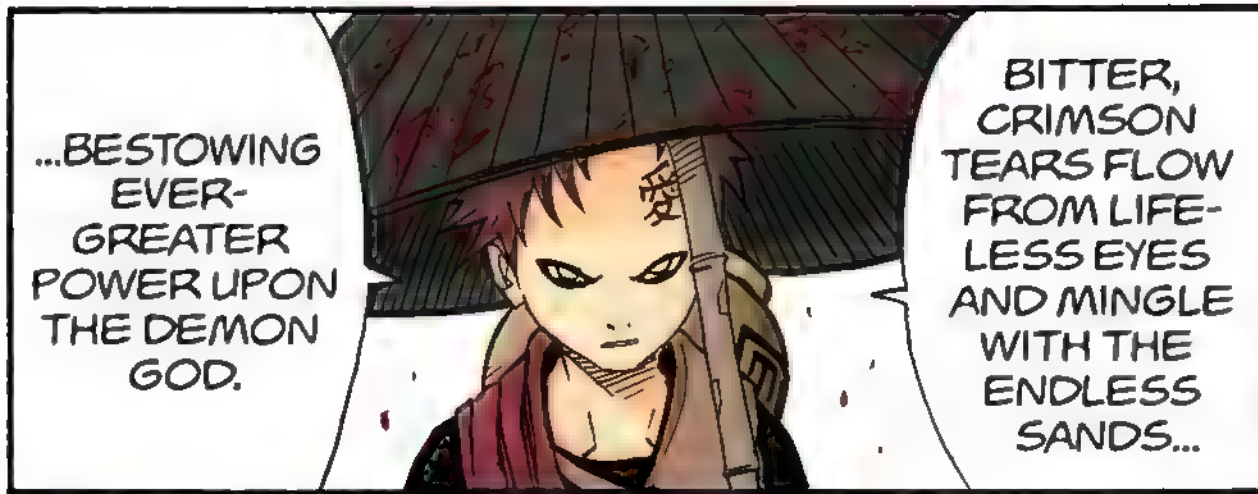
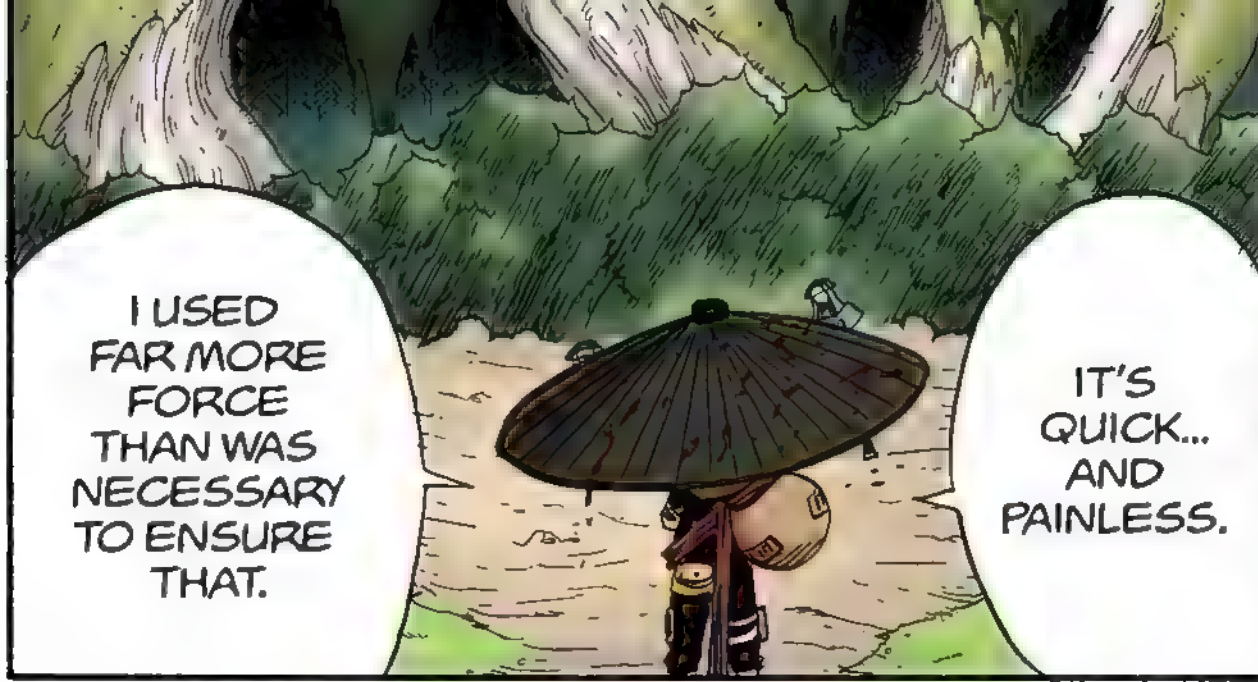


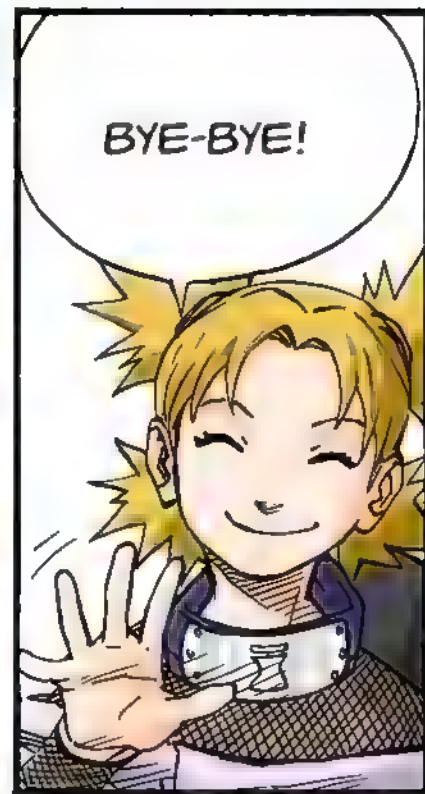
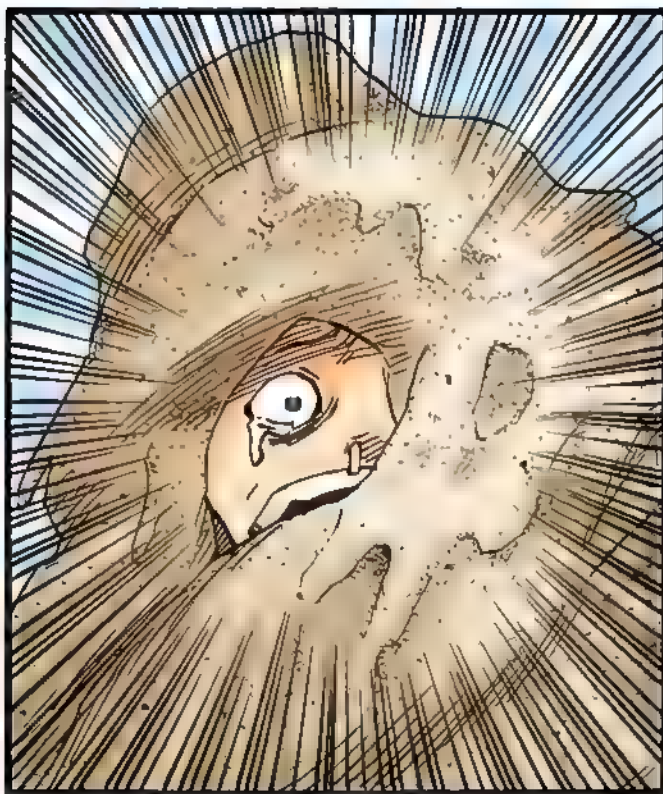


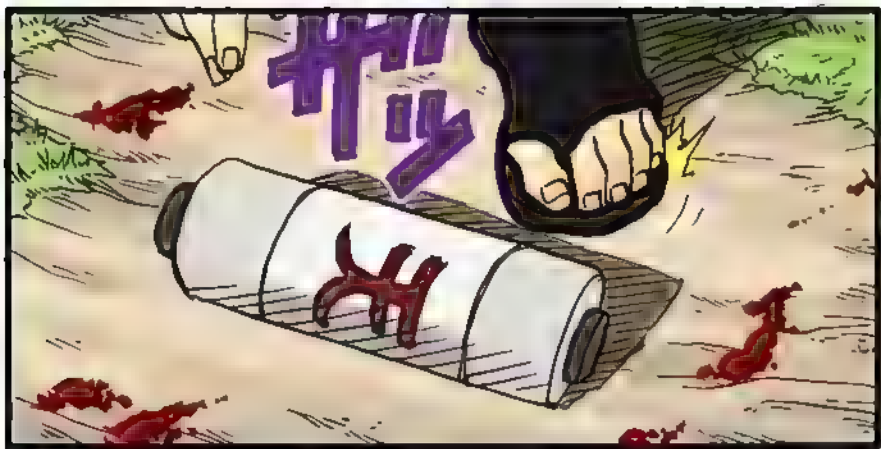












IF THEY
SPOT US,
WE'RE
DEAD
MEAT!!

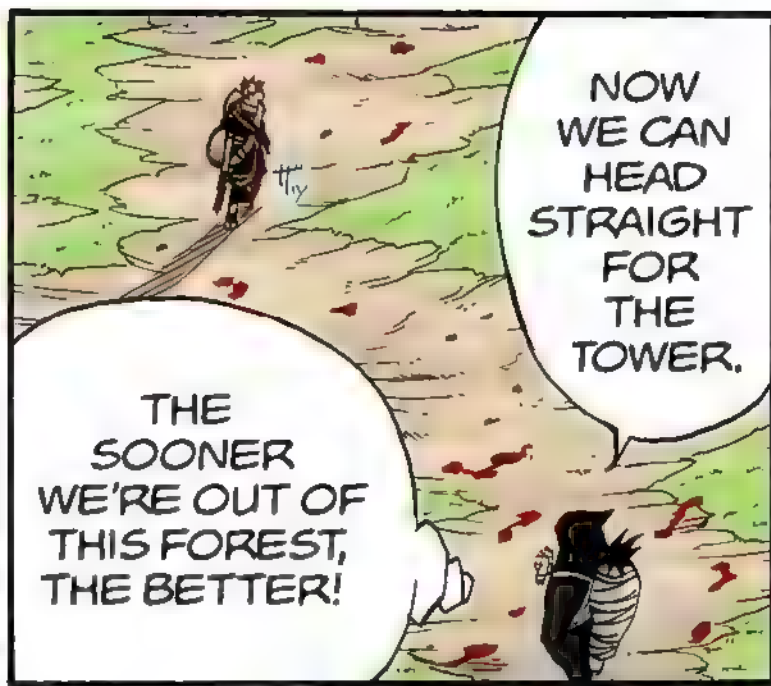
LET'S GET
OUT OF HERE...
WHILE WE
STILL CAN!



LUCKY
US...
WE
NEEDED
THE
HEAVEN
SCROLL.



NOT
YET!



NOW
WE CAN
HEAD
STRAIGHT
FOR THE
TOWER.

THE
SOONER
WE'RE OUT OF
THIS FOREST,
THE BETTER!

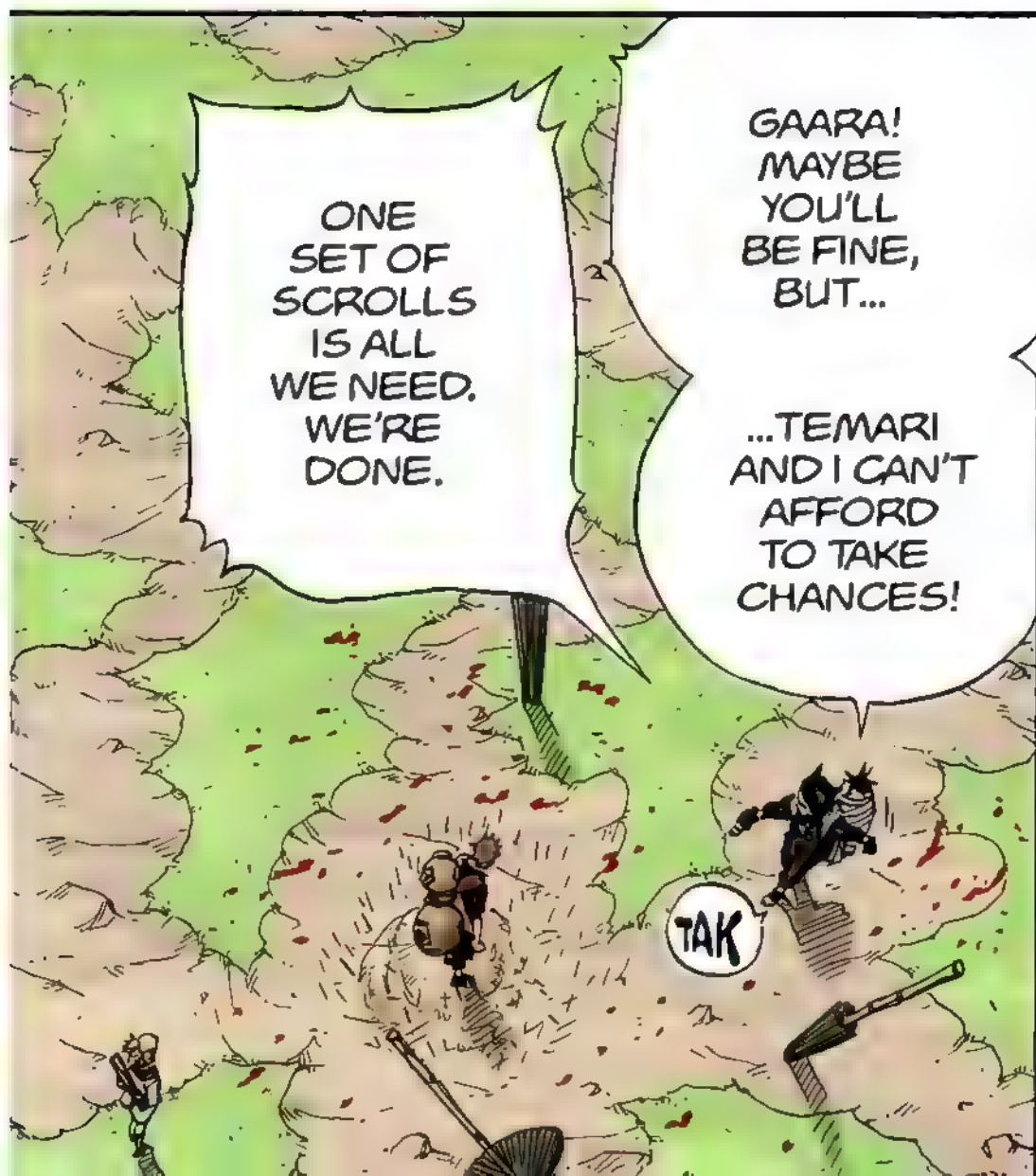


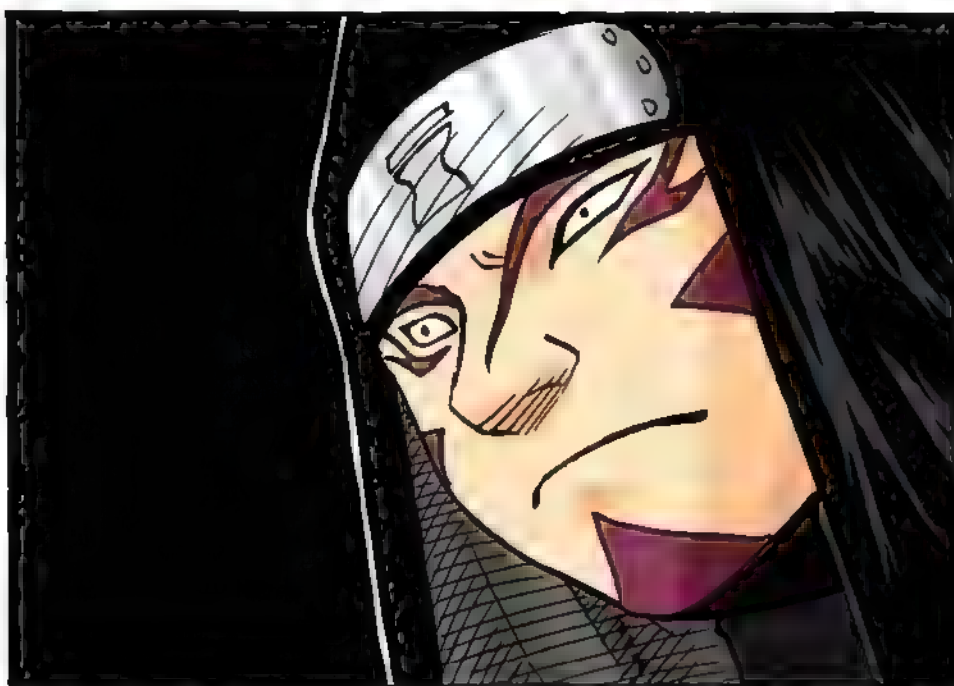
...I STILL
HAVEN'T
BEEN
SATED.

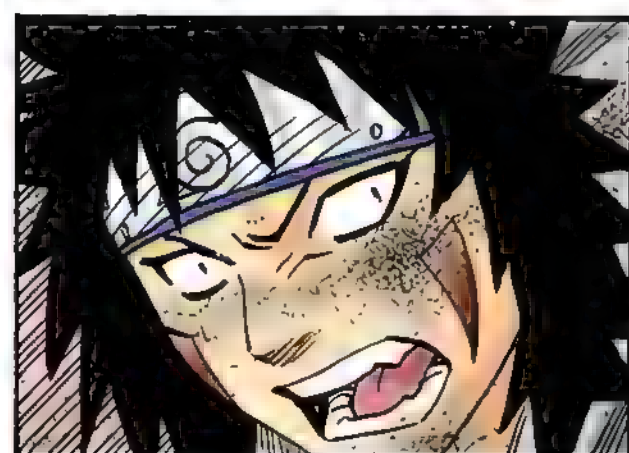
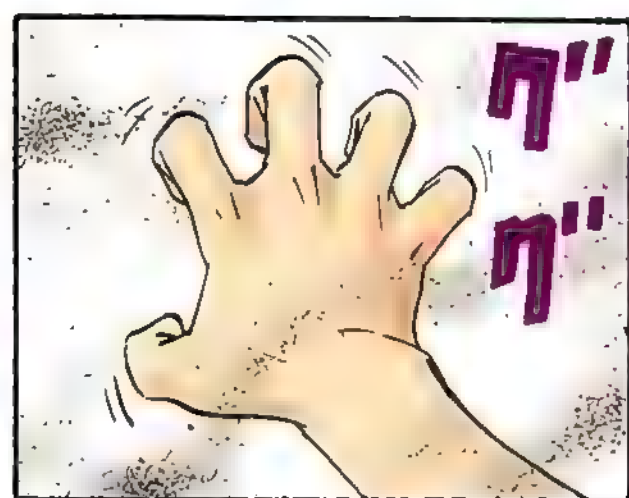
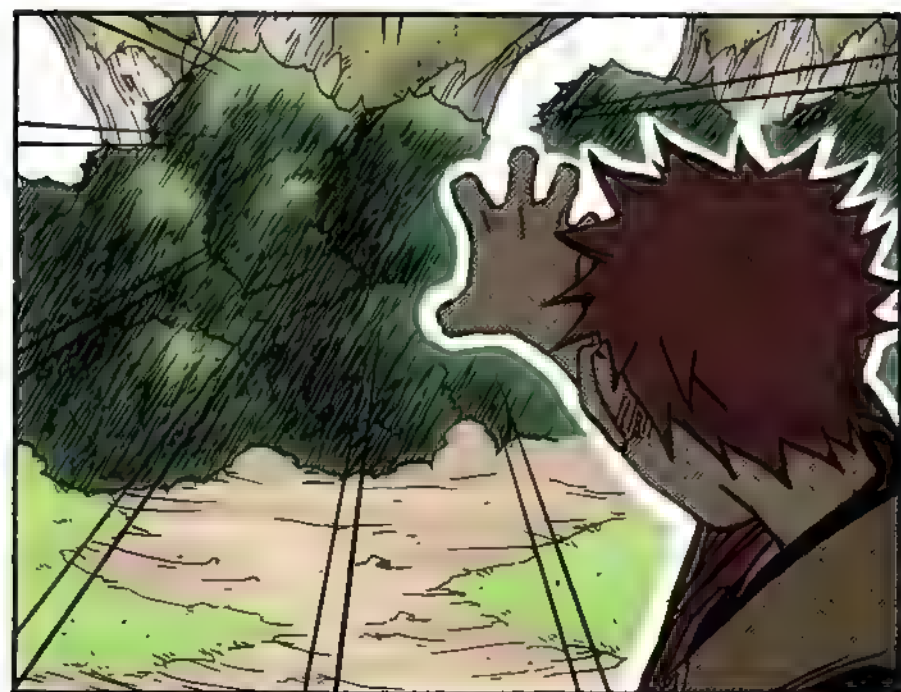
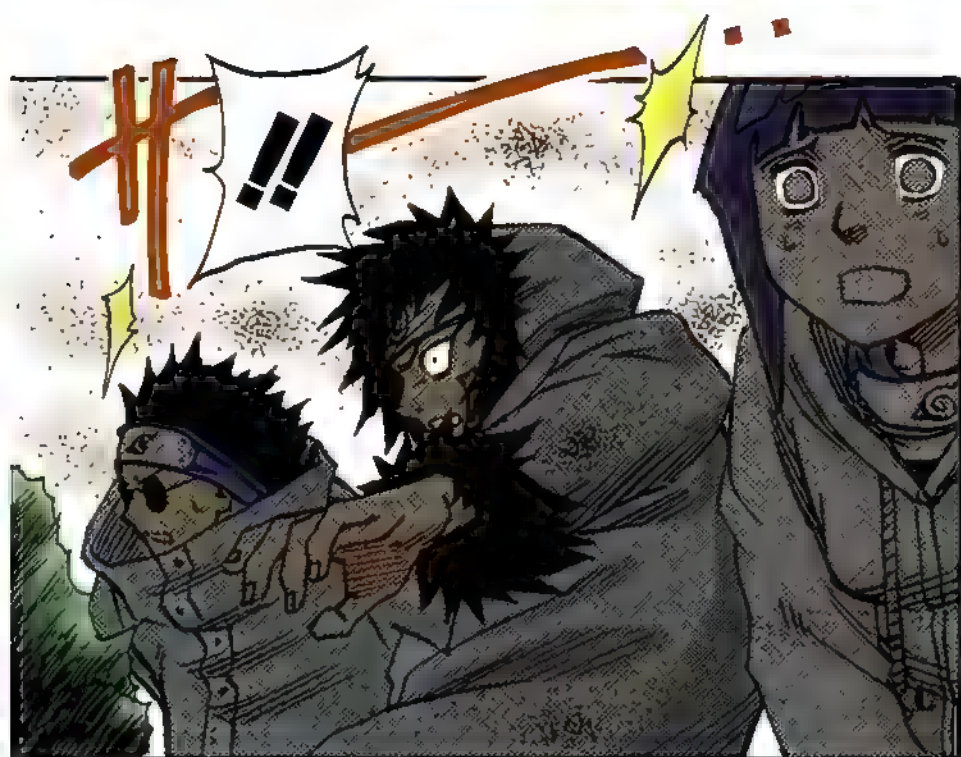
NO...

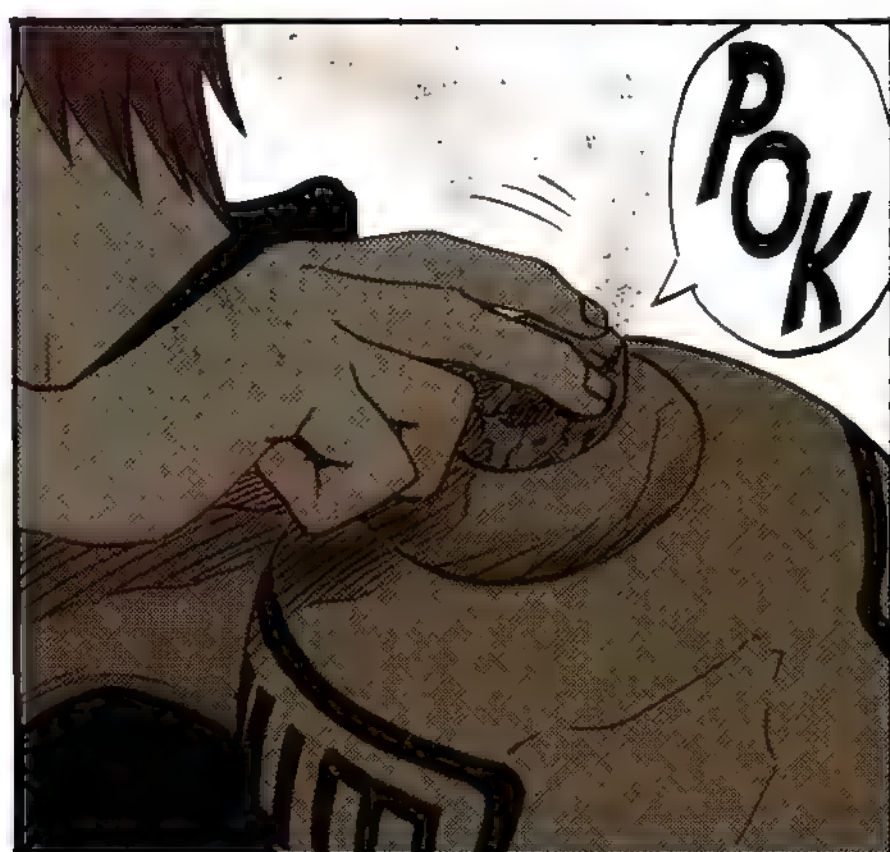
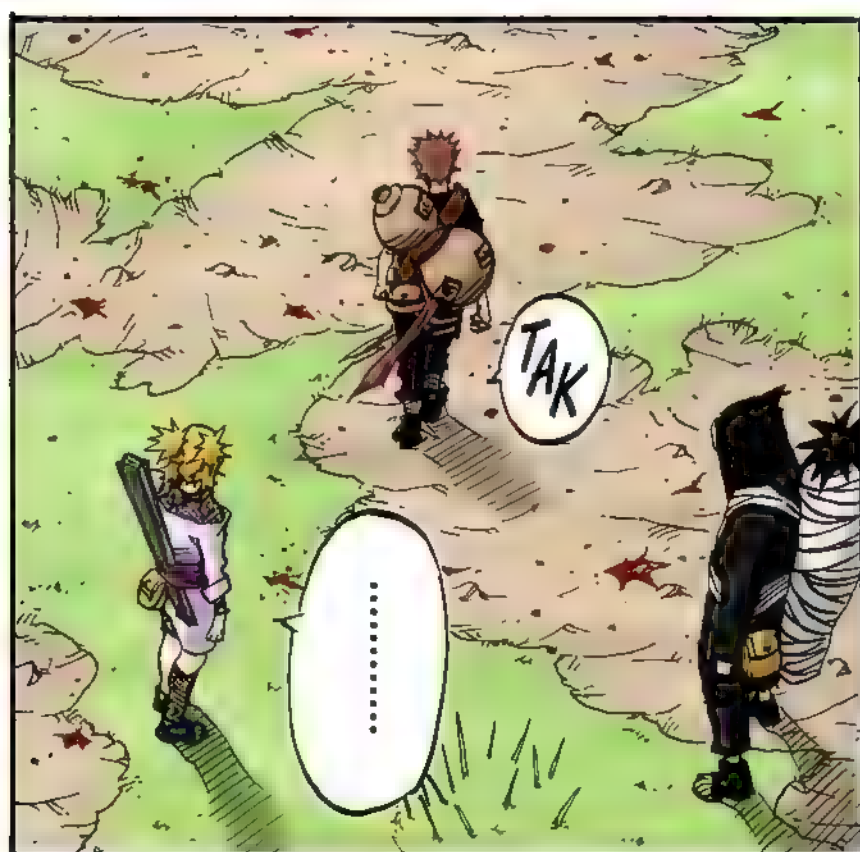


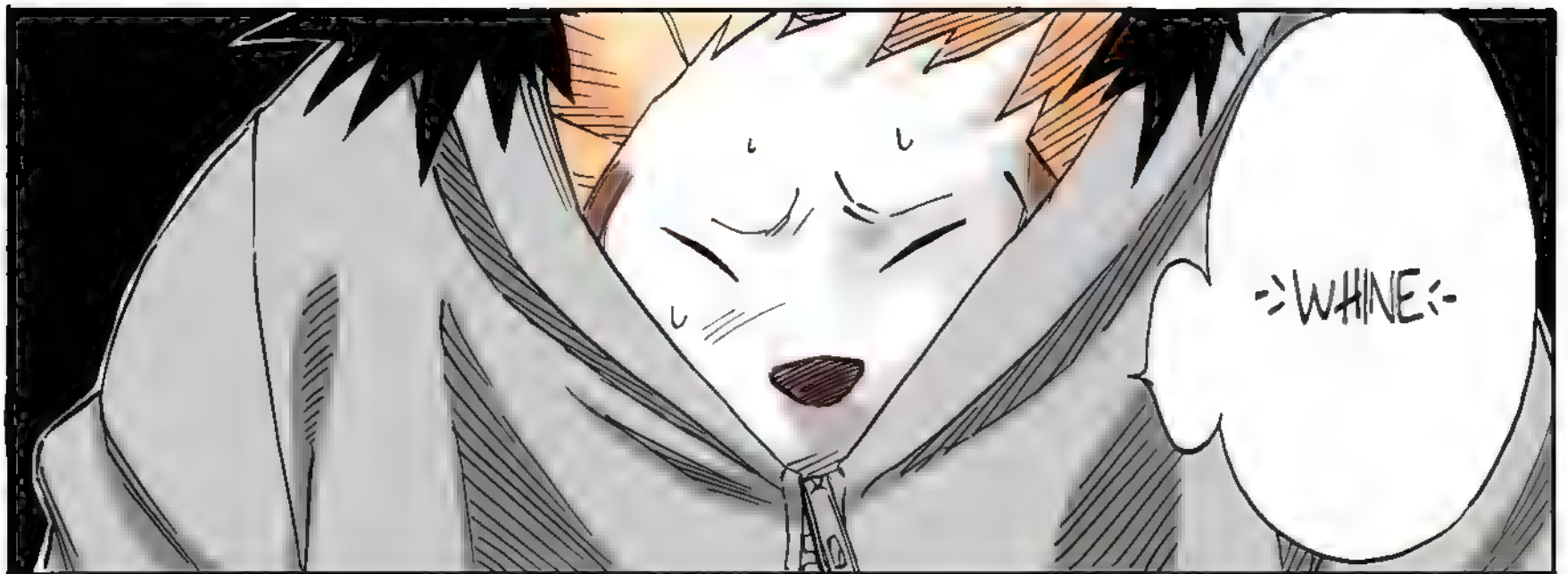
!











ナンバ 60 : THE LAST CHANCE!!

MEANWHILE,
NARUTO
AND HIS
TEAM ARE...

CONABUNGA!

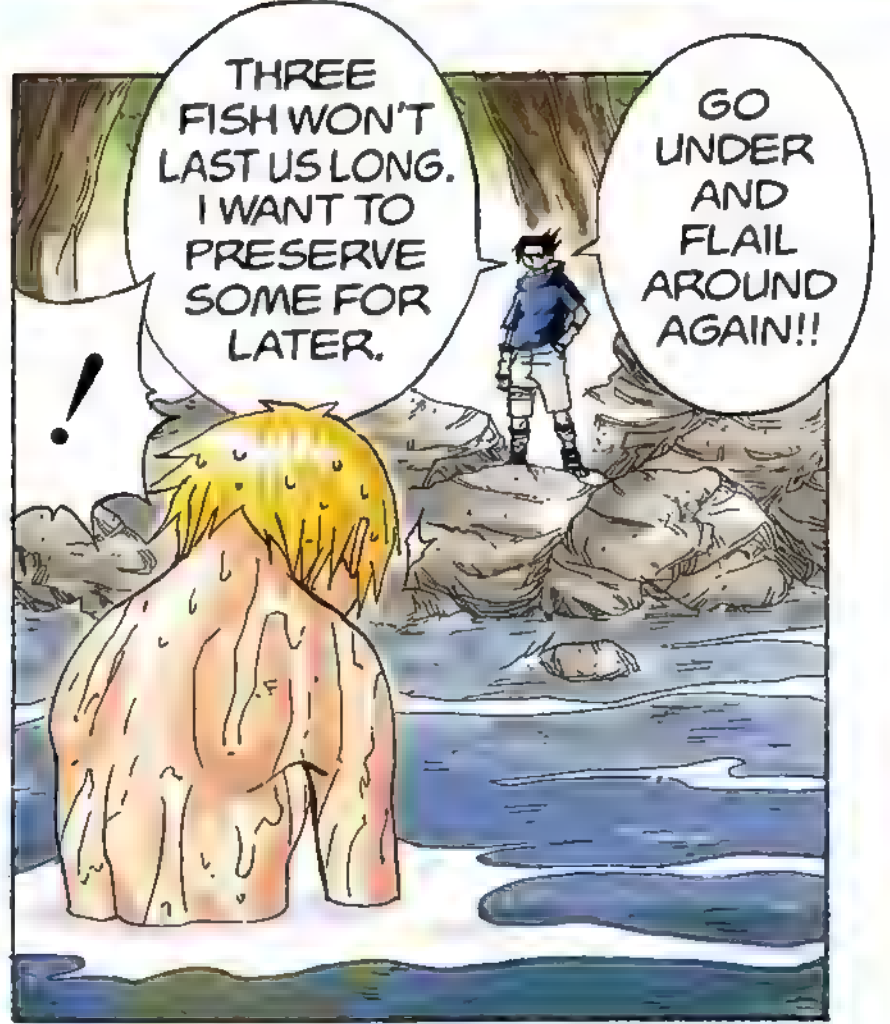
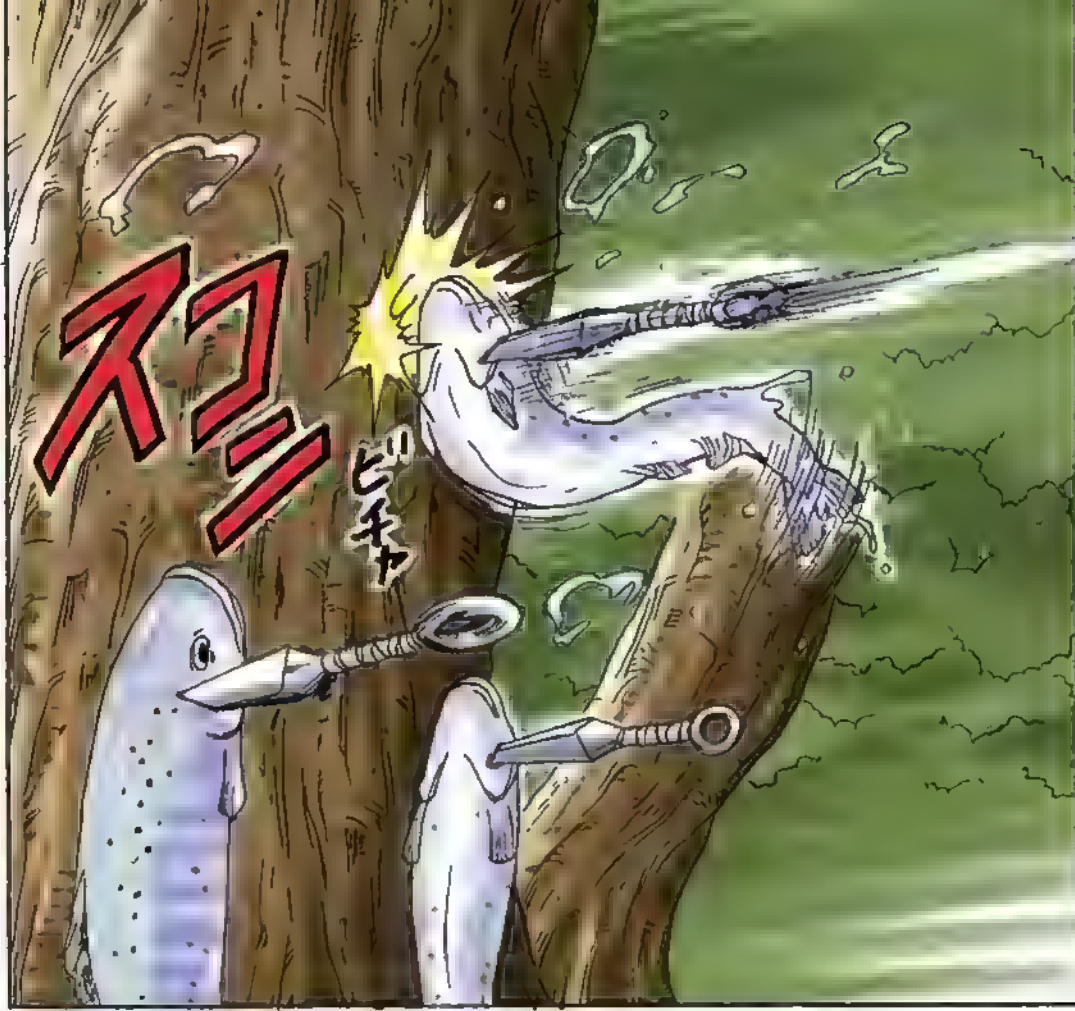
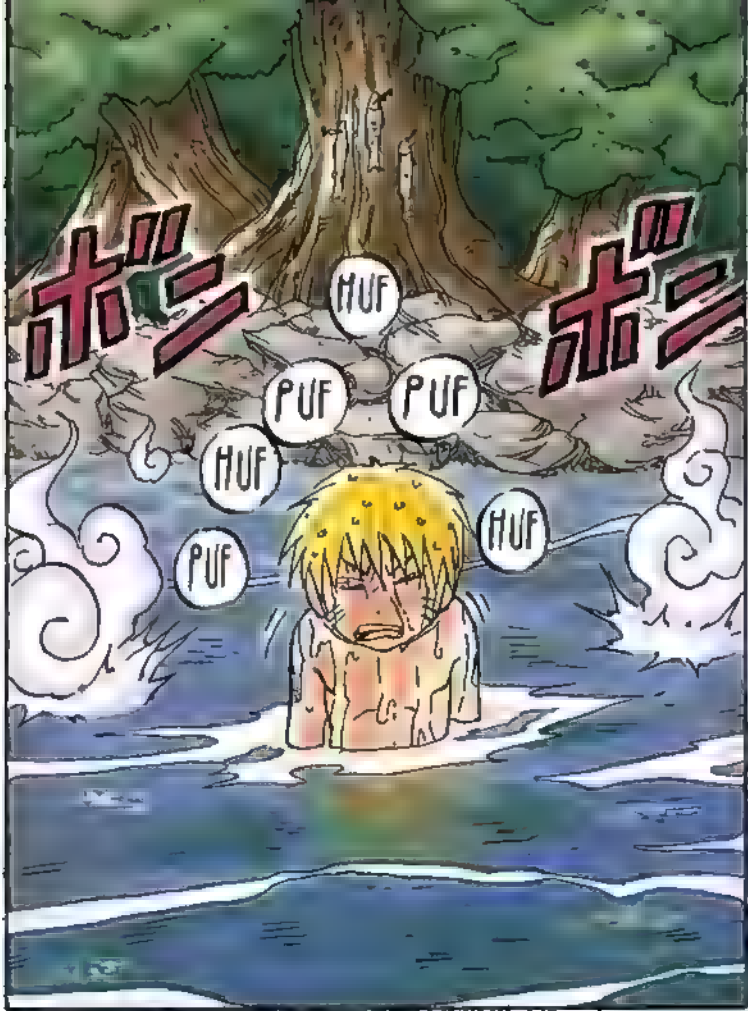
ART OF THE
SHADOW DOPPELGÄNGER!!

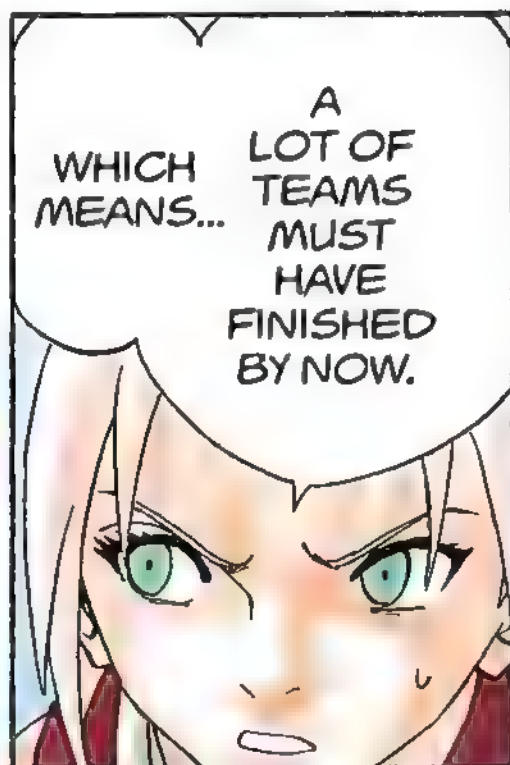
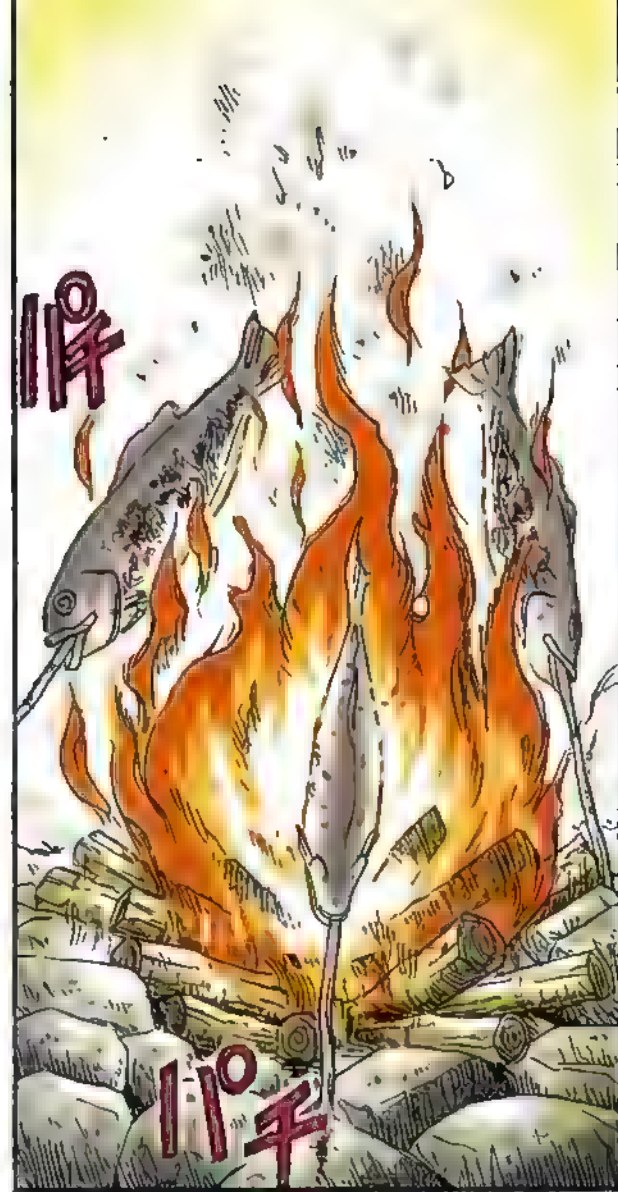
GLUB
BLUB
BLUB
GLUB
BLUB!!

シャバシャ

ゴポゴポ







ANNOUNCING THE RESULTS OF OUR CHARACTER POPULARITY POLL!!

4TH PLACE
MASTER IRUKA
7,128 VOTES

10TH PLACE
HYUGA HINATA
553

7TH PLACE
GAARA
1,353 VOTES

8TH PLACE
HAKU
1,302 VOTES

9TH PLACE
ZABUZA
768 VOTES

6TH PLACE
ROCK LEE
2,327 VOTES

5TH PLACE
HARUNO SAKURA
3,055

3RD PLACE
UCHIHA SASUKE
13,674 VOTES

1ST PLACE
HATAKE KAKASHI
22,692 VOTES

2ND PLACE
UZUMAKI NARUTO
16,729 VOTES

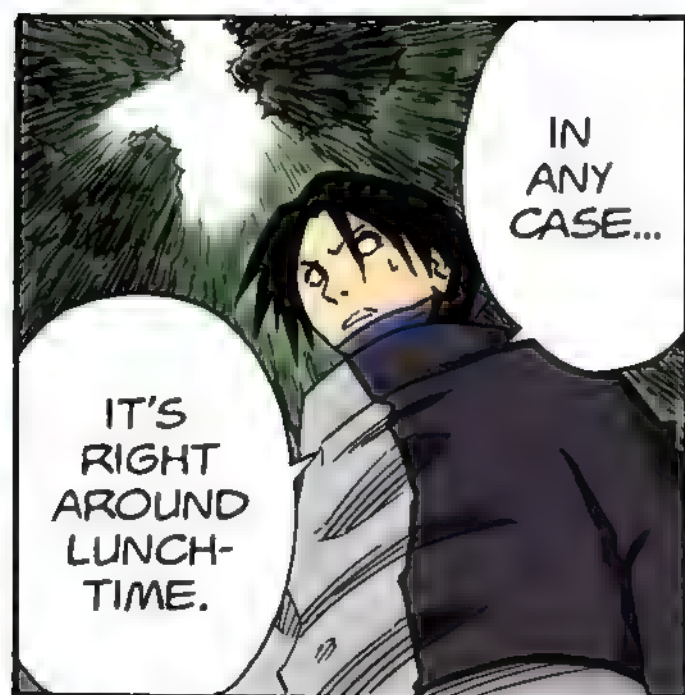
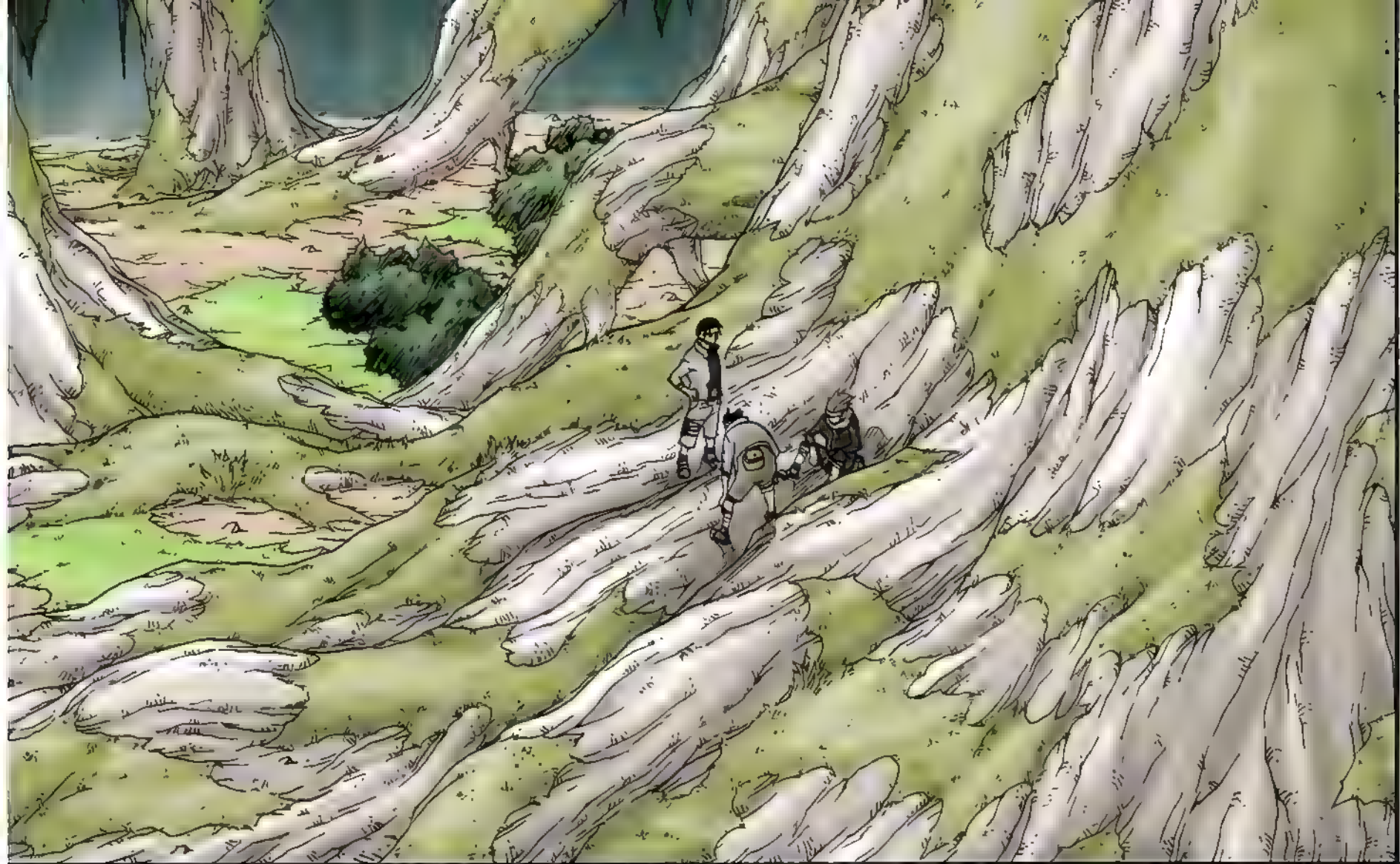
TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES:
72,733 VOTES!!!!

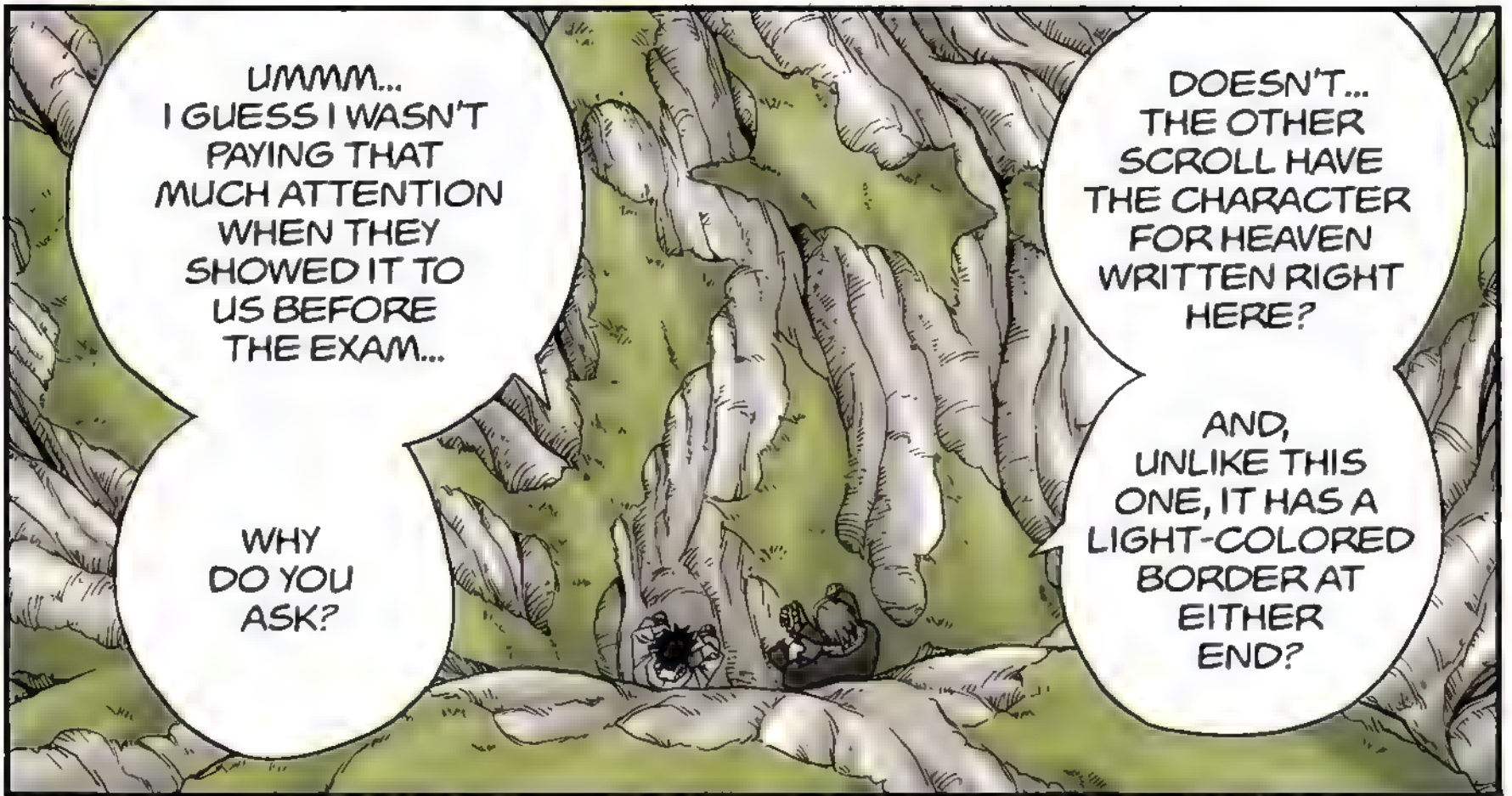
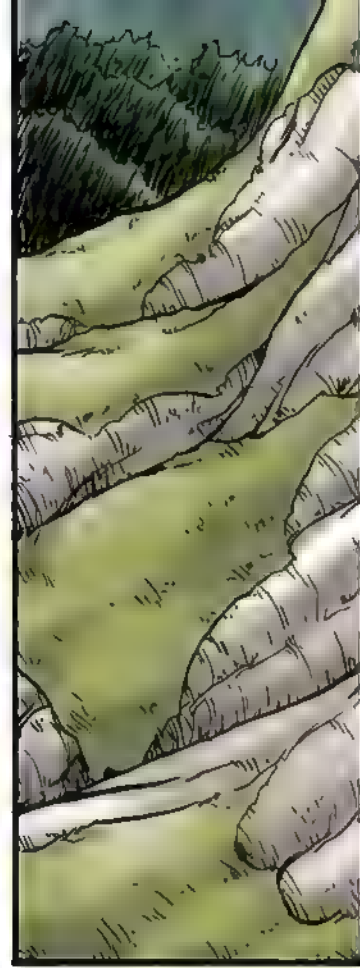
THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR
ALL THOSE VOTES!!!!

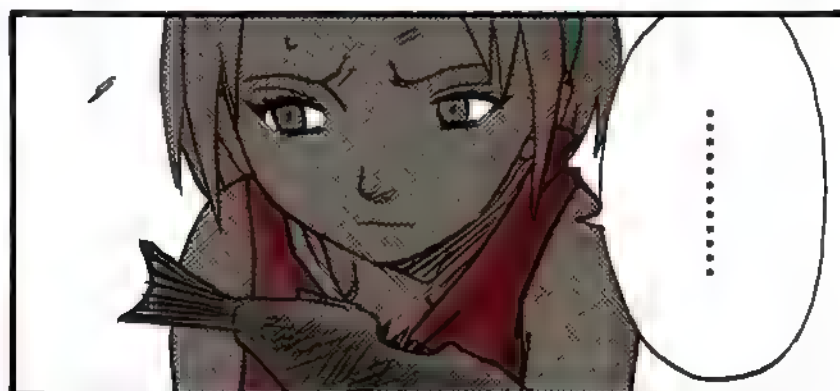
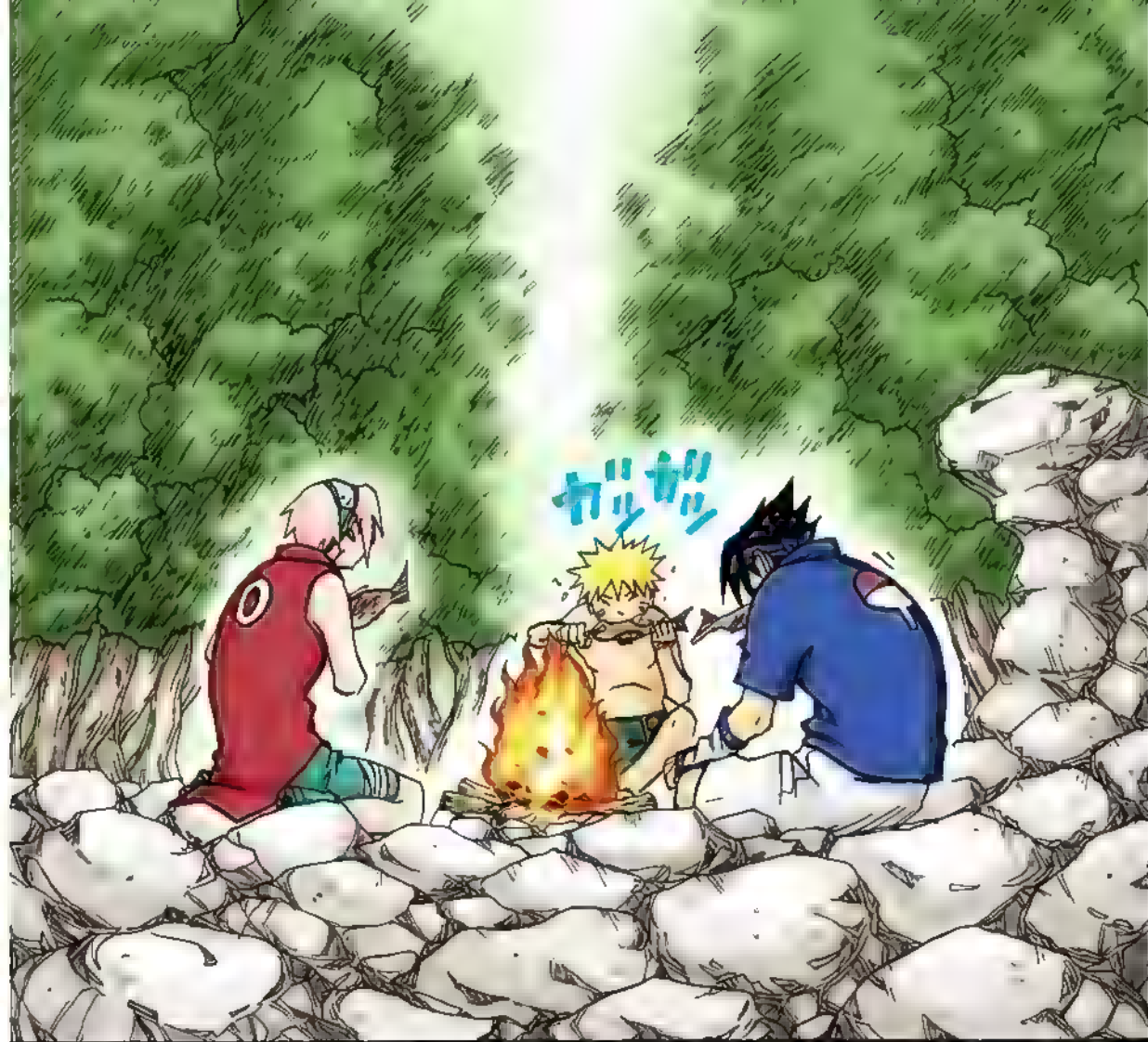
11TH: MITARASHI ANKO
12TH: HYUGA NEJI
13TH: YUHI KURENAI
14TH: MASTER GAI
15TH: OROCHIMARU
16TH: MORINO IBIKI
17TH: SARUTOBII ASUMA
18TH: KISHIMOTO MASASHI
19TH: INARI
20TH: KONOHAMARU
21ST: INUZUKA KIBA
22ND: KABUTO
23RD: OTONIN SOUND NINJA
24TH: TENTEN
25TH: NINE-TAILED FOX
26TH: TEMARI
27TH: NARA SHIKAMARU
28TH: KANKURO
29TH: EBISU
30TH: YAMANAKA INO

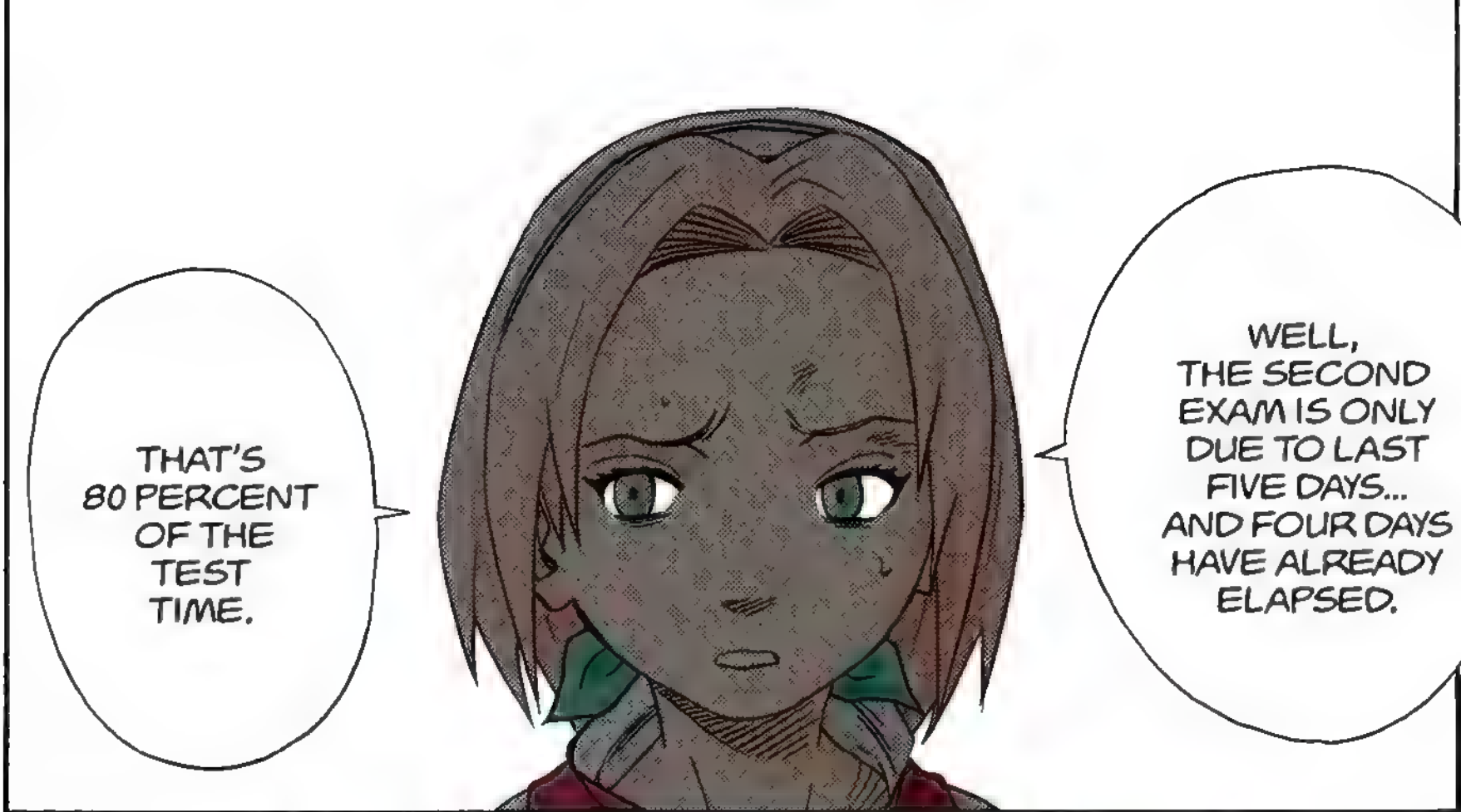
332 VOTES
288 VOTES
217 VOTES
216 VOTES
199 VOTES
174 VOTES
165 VOTES
157 VOTES
156 VOTES
143 VOTES
135 VOTES
110 VOTES
107 VOTES
83 VOTES
72 VOTES
71 VOTES
66 VOTES
62 VOTES
55 VOTES
53 VOTES

60 :
THE LAST CHANCE!!









THAT'S
80 PERCENT
OF THE
TEST
TIME.

WELL,
THE SECOND
EXAM IS ONLY
DUE TO LAST
FIVE DAYS...
AND FOUR DAYS
HAVE ALREADY
ELAPSED.



...THAT
OROCHIMARU
GUY WHO
ATTACKED
US...

AND...
THAT
WAS
BEFORE...

...BURNED
OUR
HEAVEN
SCROLL.

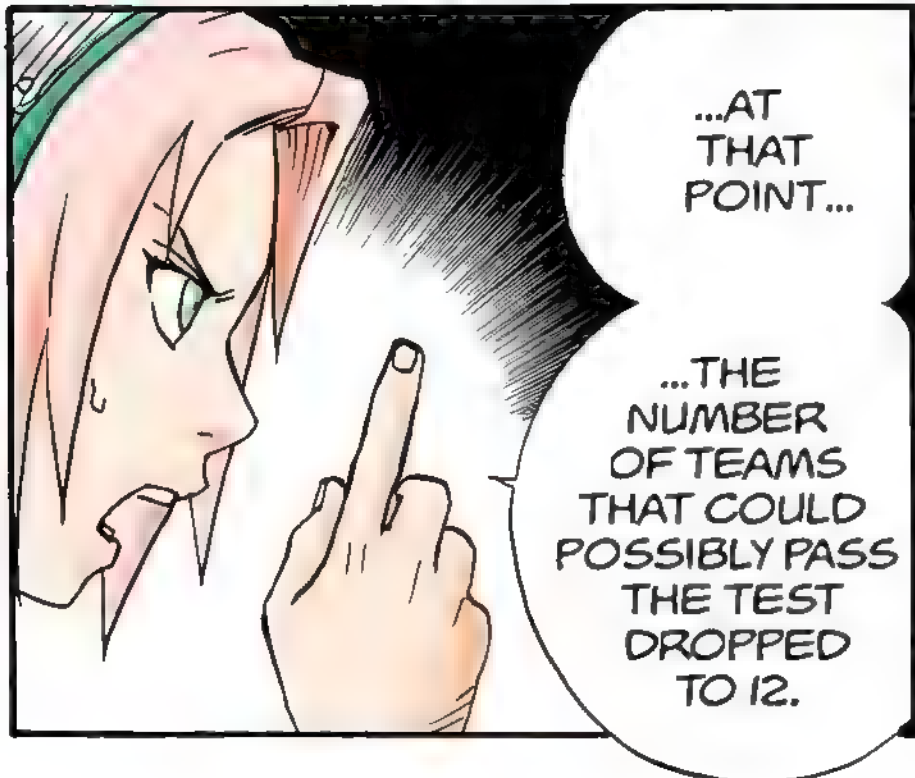


SINCE
YOU NEED
BOTH SCROLLS
TO PASS,
A MAXIMUM OF
13 TEAMS
WILL
SUCCEED.

THERE
ARE 26
TEAMS OF
THREE
COMPETING...

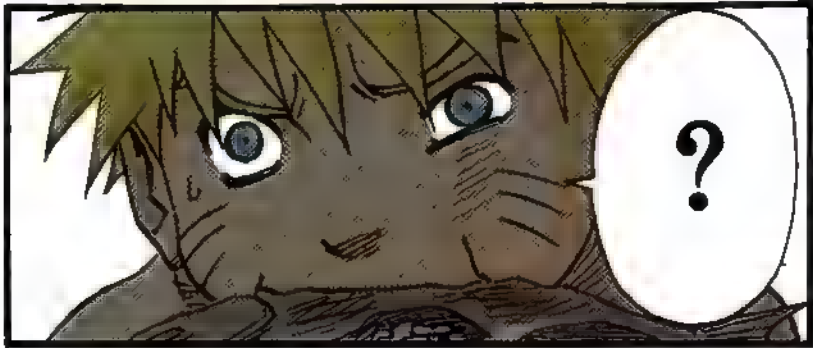
AND
ONLY 13
OF EACH
SCROLL,
HEAVEN
OR EARTH.

?



...AT
THAT
POINT...

...THE
NUMBER
OF TEAMS
THAT COULD
POSSIBLY PASS
THE TEST
DROPPED
TO 12.



?



WHICH
MEANS
THAT...

...



AS SOON
AS ONE OF
EITHER TYPE
OF SCROLL IS
DESTROYED...

...ONE
SCROLL
OF THE
OTHER TYPE
AUTOMATICALLY
BECOMES
USELESS.

ONE
SET



HEAVEN



EARTH

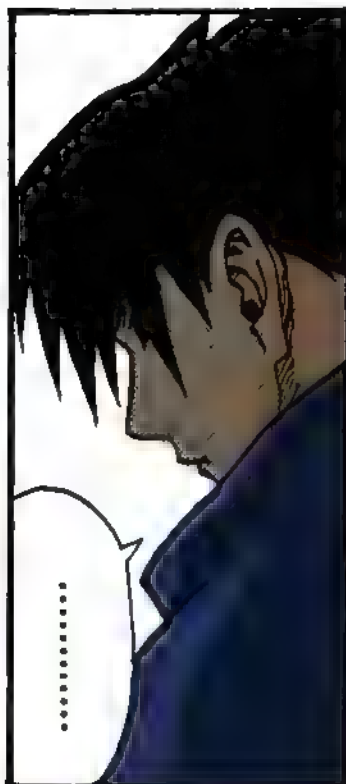
AND
WE HAVE
NO WAY OF
KNOWING IF
ALL 25 OF THE
OTHER SCROLLS
SURVIVED,
EITHER.

THE NEXT
ENEMY
WE MEET...

WE'LL
HAVE TO
WIDEN OUR
SEARCH...

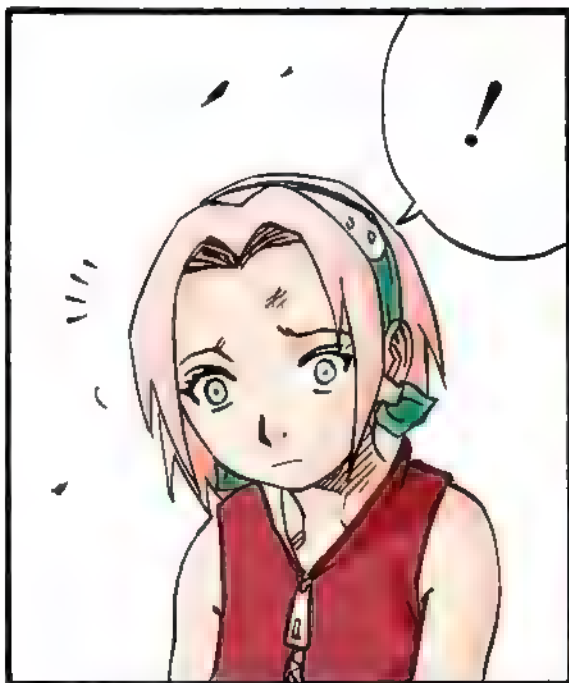
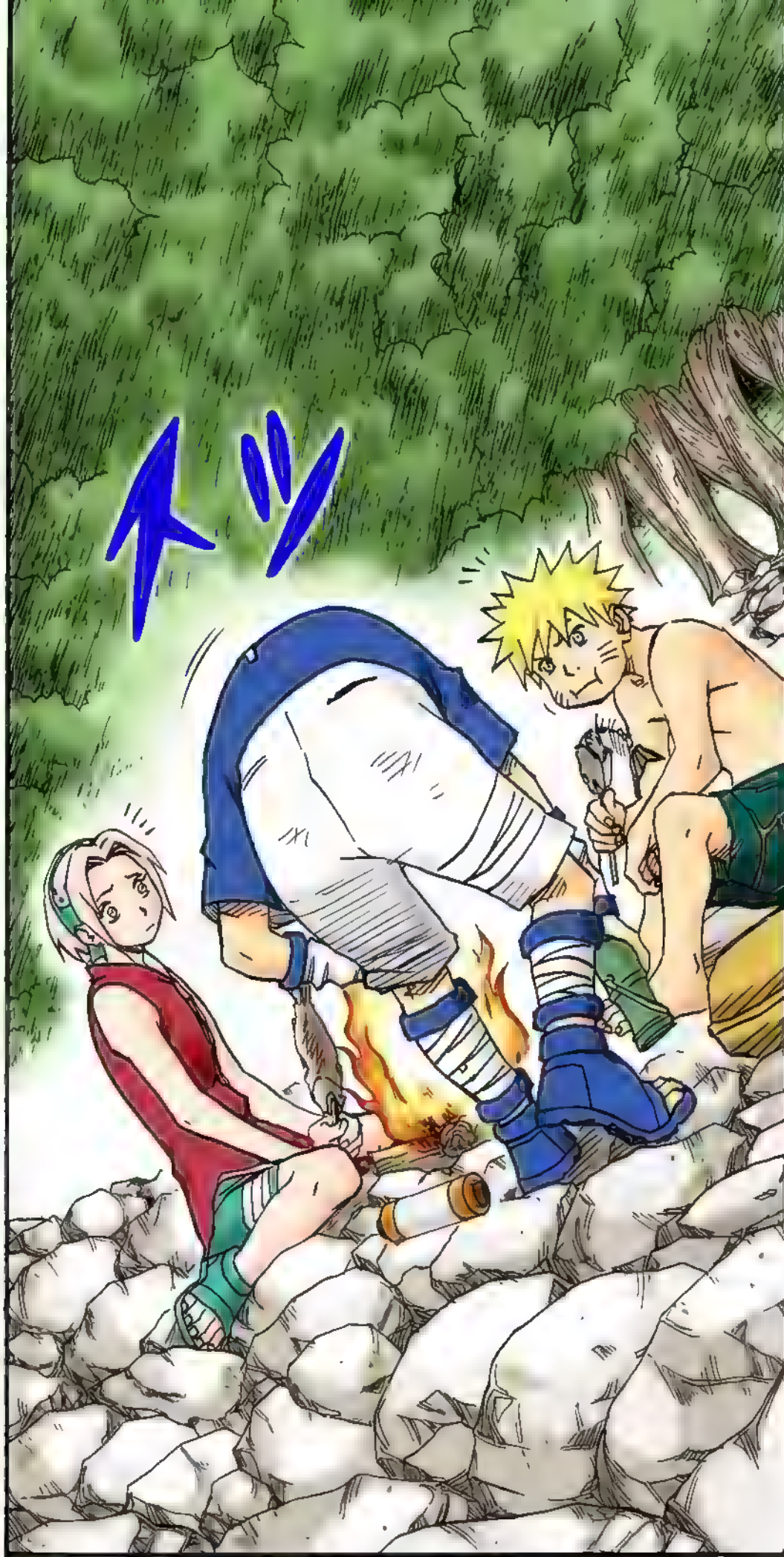
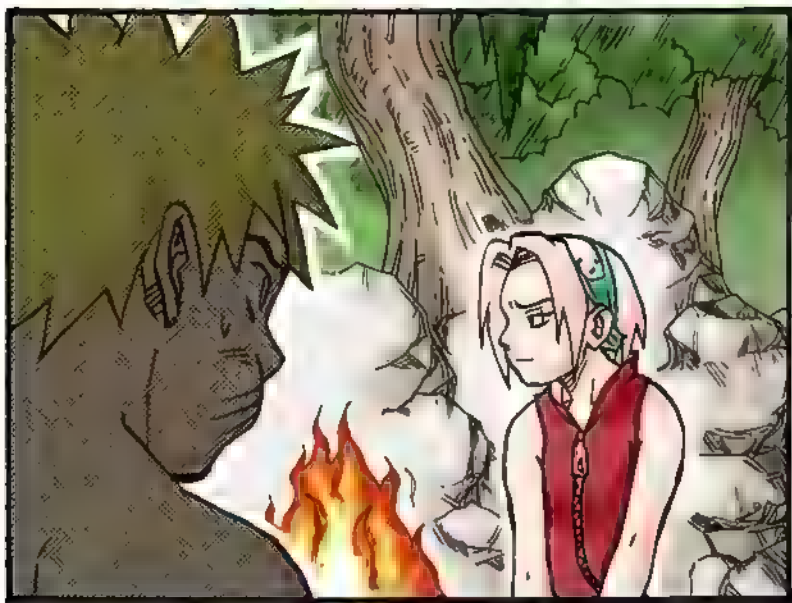
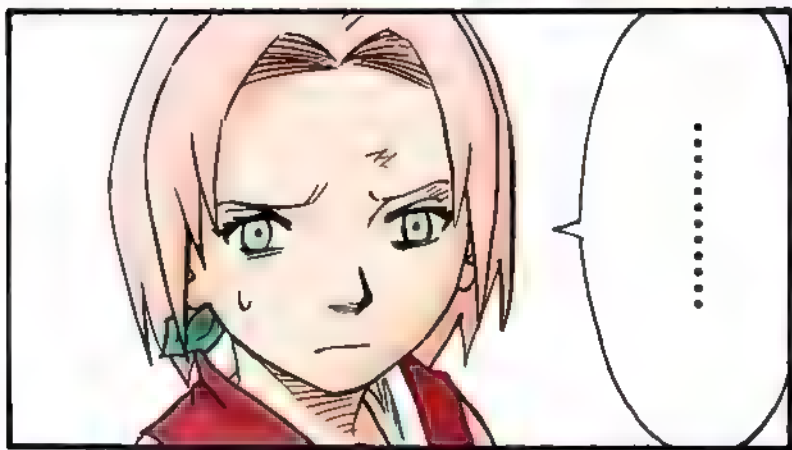
...TO MAKE
UP FOR THE
TIME AND
DISTANCE
WE'VE LOST.

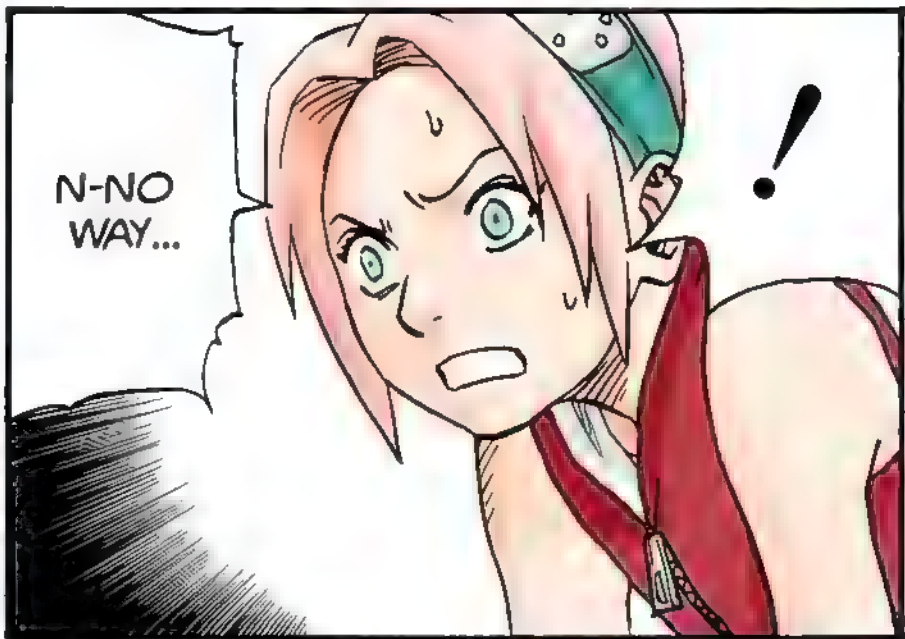
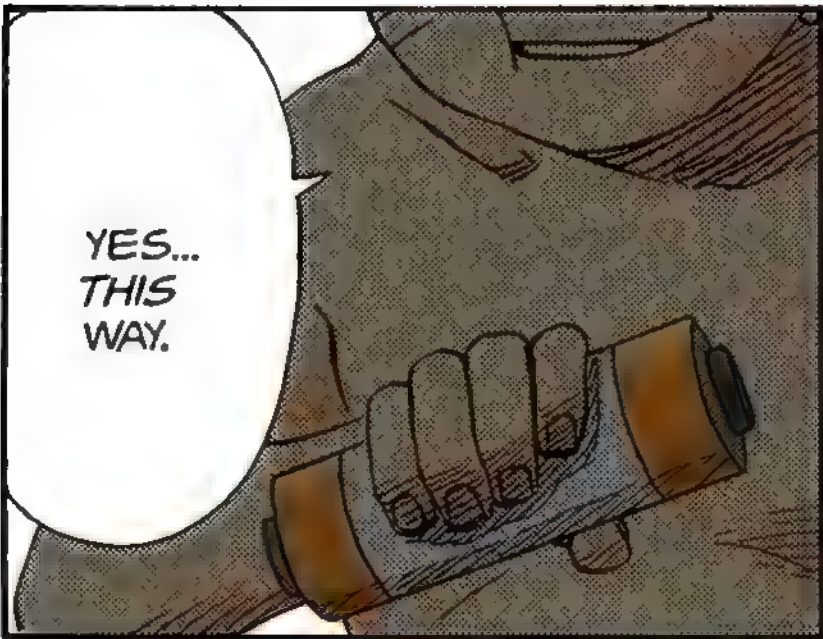
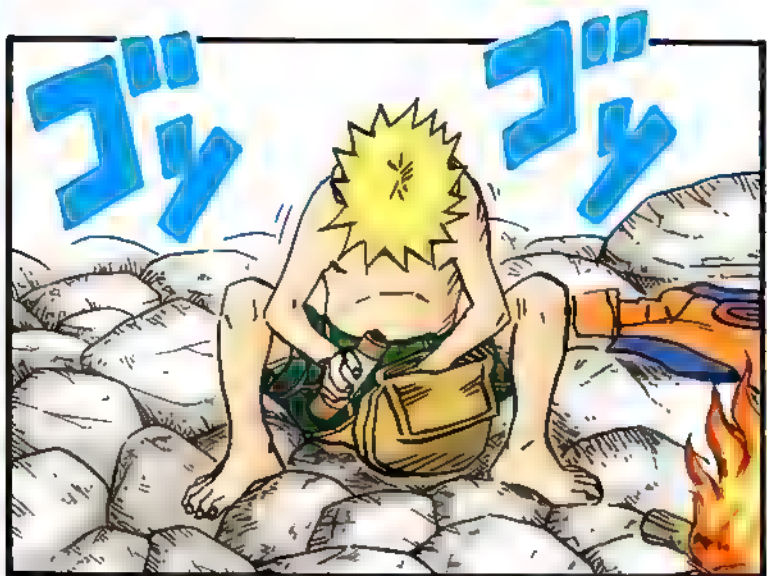
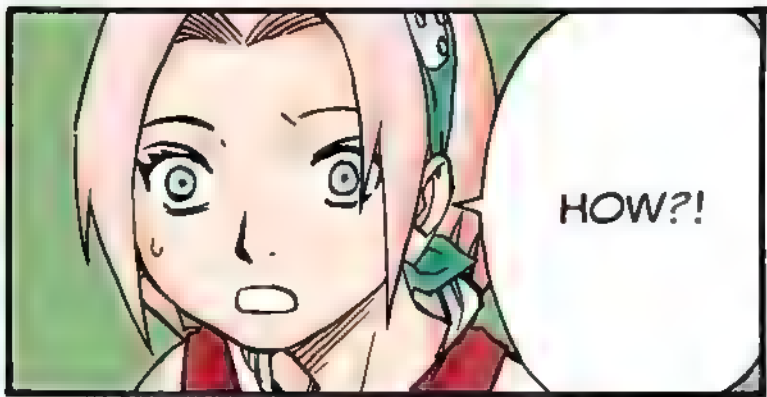
WE SPLIT UP
FROM THE REST
OF THE TEAMS
FROM KONOHA...
AND HAD TO
SPEND TWO DAYS
LETTING OUR
WOUNDS
HEAL.



...OUR
LAST
CHANCE!!

...COULD
BE...







NINJUTSU
MANUALS,
RECIPES
FOR POISONS,
BLANK
SCROLLS
FOR TAKING
NOTES...

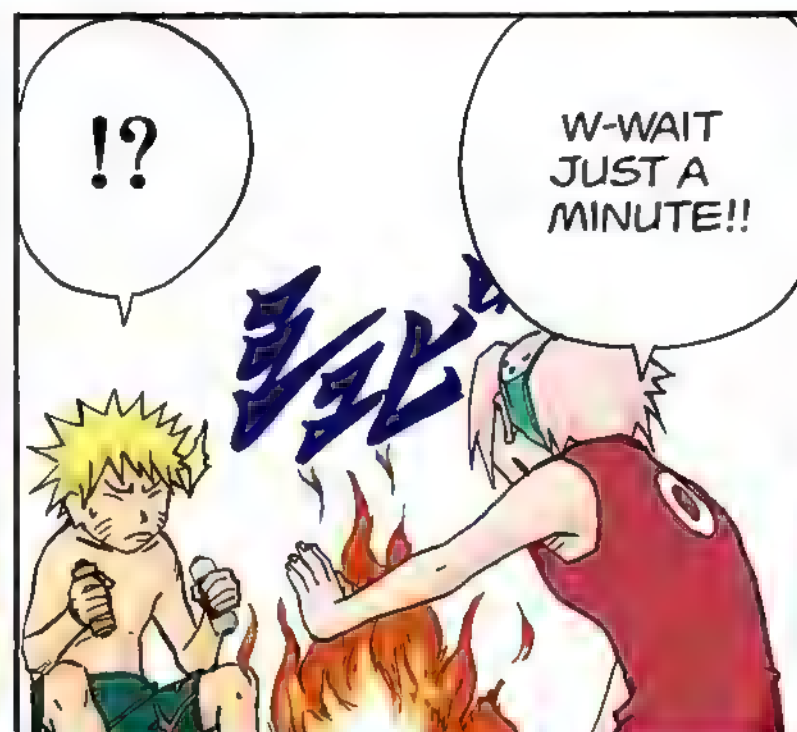
A FEW
BRUSH STROKES
HERE, SOME
DECORATION
THERE, AND ONE
OF THESE CAN
PASS FOR A
HEAVEN SCROLL
IN NO TIME!

IF IT'S
SCROLLS
THEY WANT,
I GOT A
MILLION
OF 'EM.



...OR WHAT'S
WRITTEN
INSIDE
THEM!!
THE MINUTE
THEY OPEN IT,
WE'LL GET
BUSTED,
YOU IDIOT!

EVEN IF YOU
COULD
MAKE THE
OUTSIDE
LOOK THE
SAME, WE
HAVE NO
IDEA WHAT
THE INSIDE
OF THE
SCROLLS
LOOK LIKE...



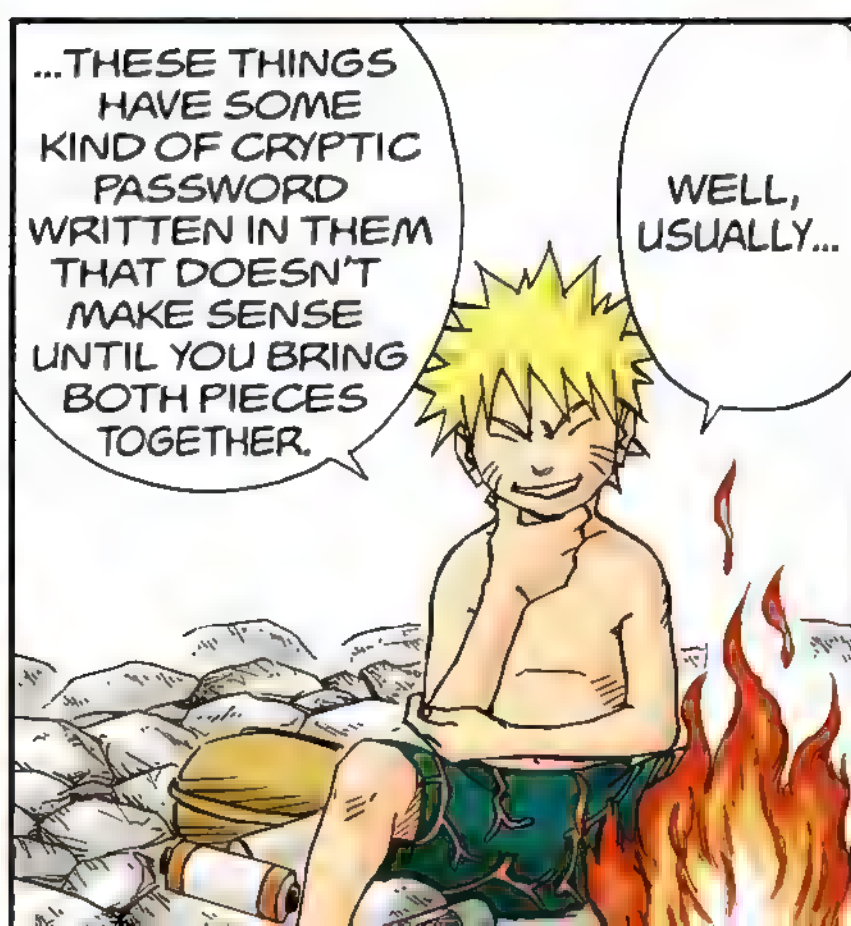
!?

W-WAIT
JUST A
MINUTE!!



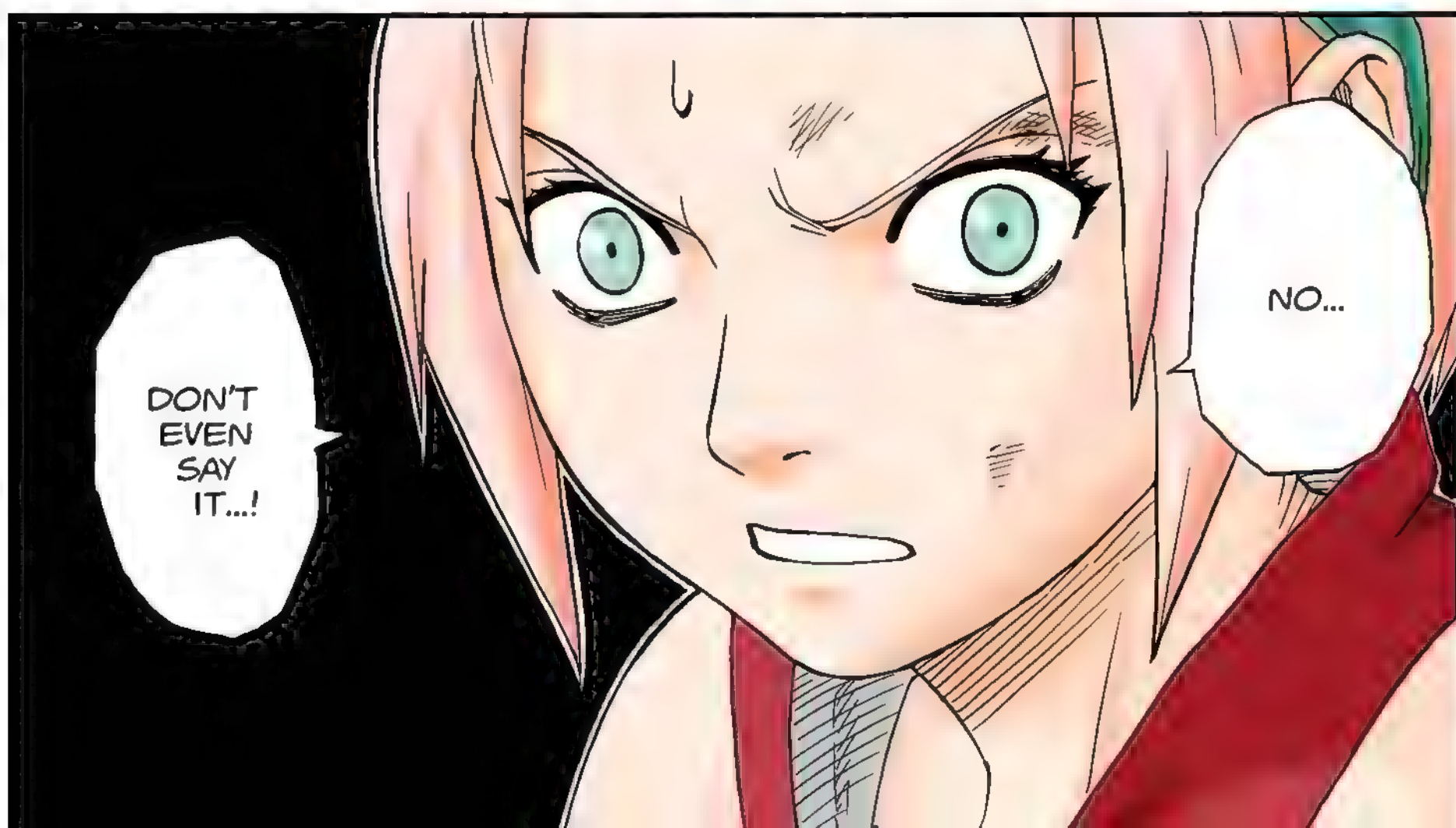
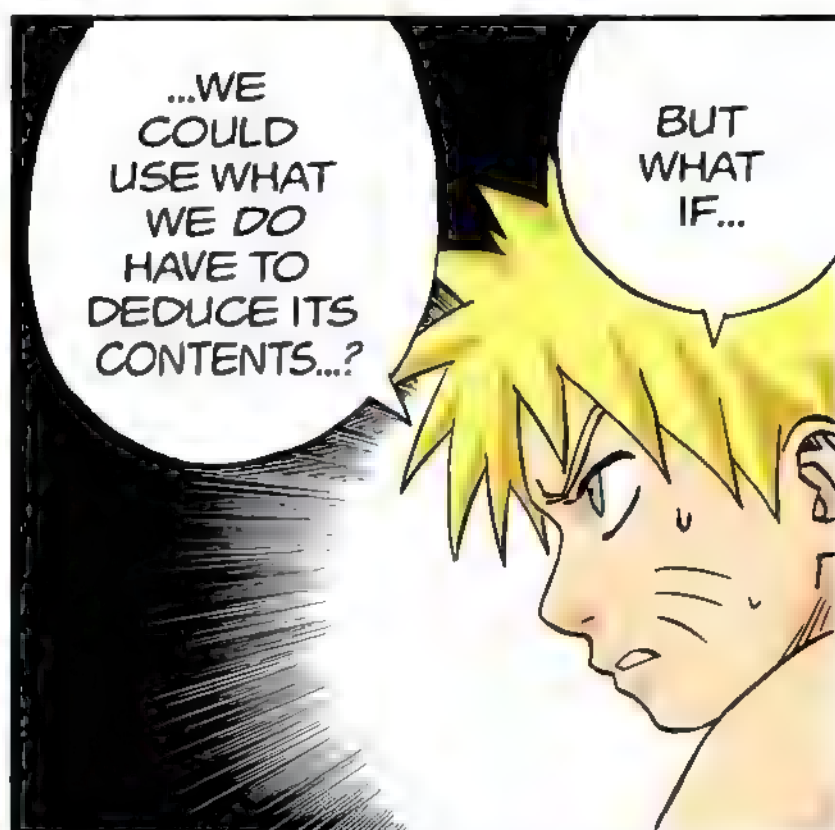
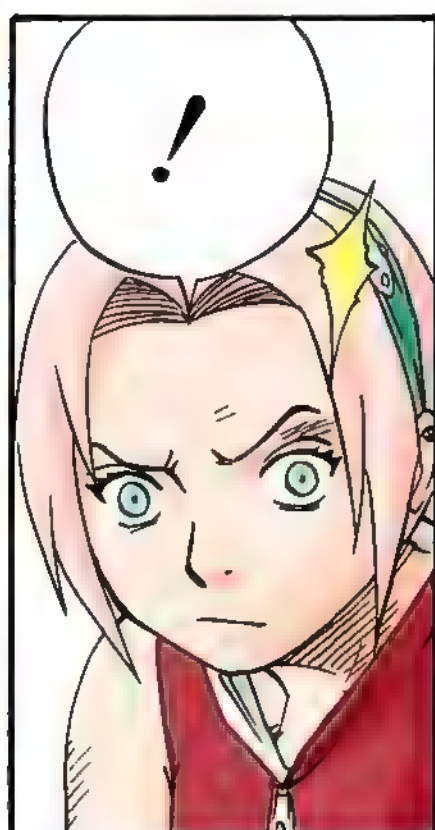
I BET
YOU
THAT'S
IT!!

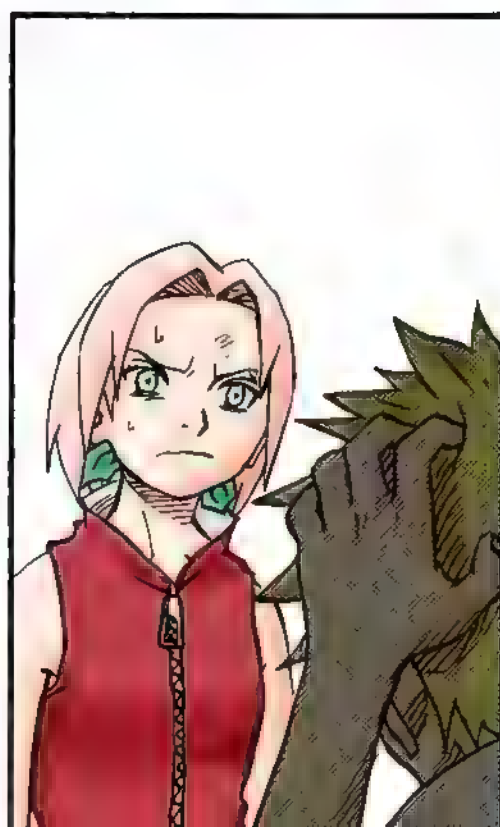
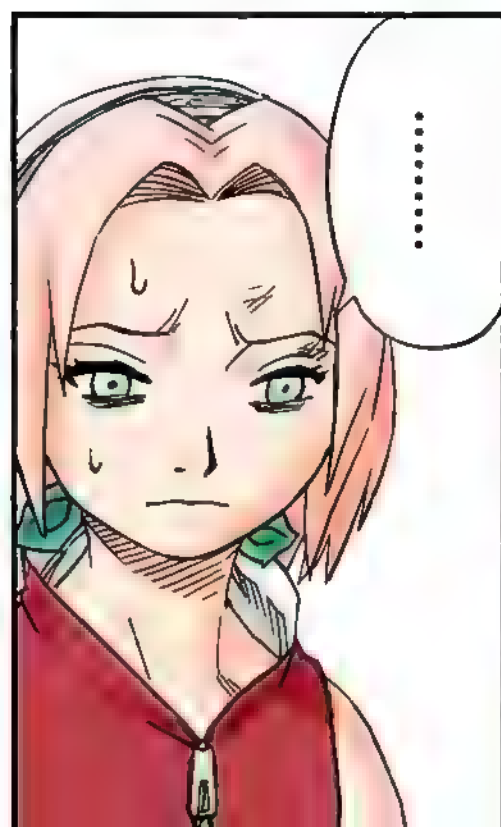
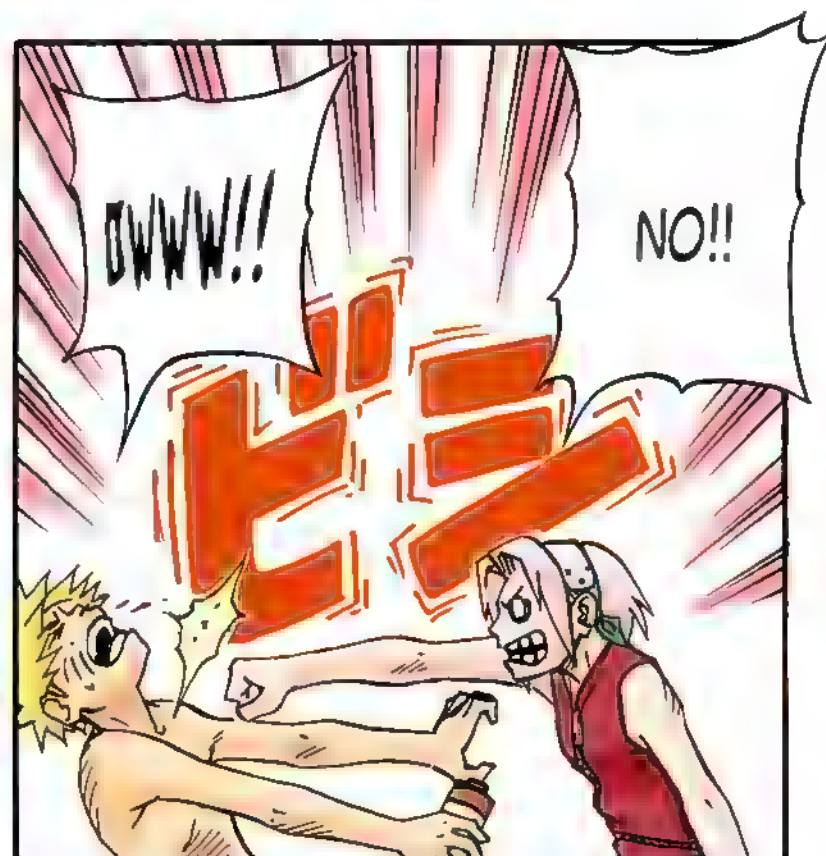
SO... YEAH!
YOU PROBABLY
NEED THAT
PASSWORD
TO GET INTO
THE TOWER AT
THE END OF
THE EXAM!

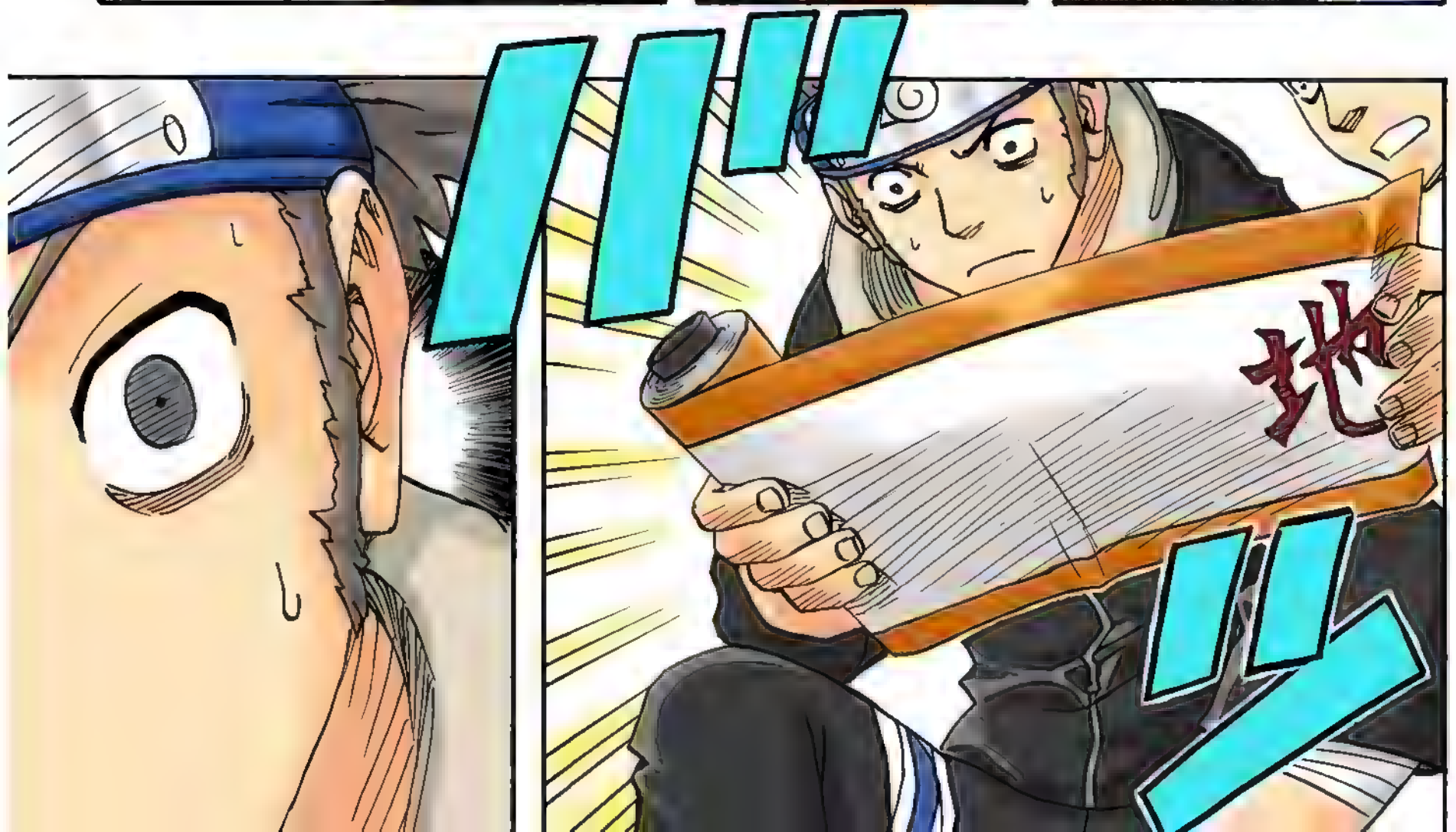


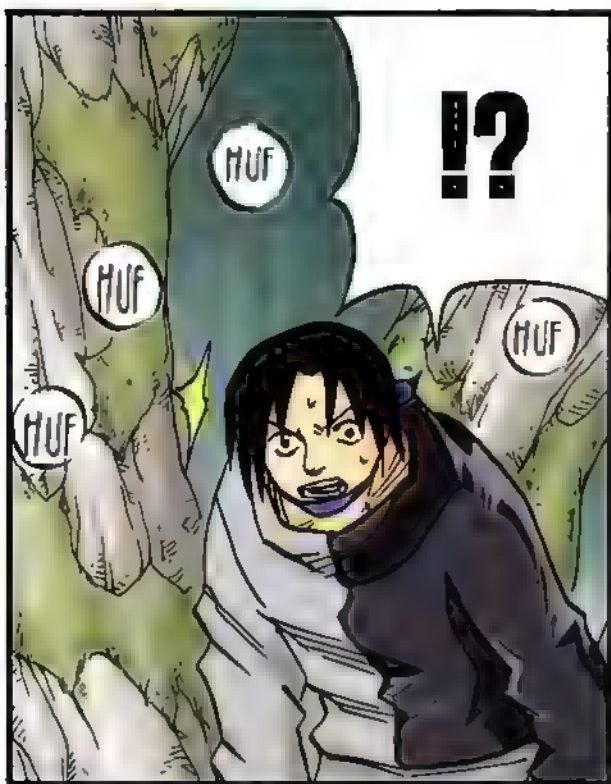
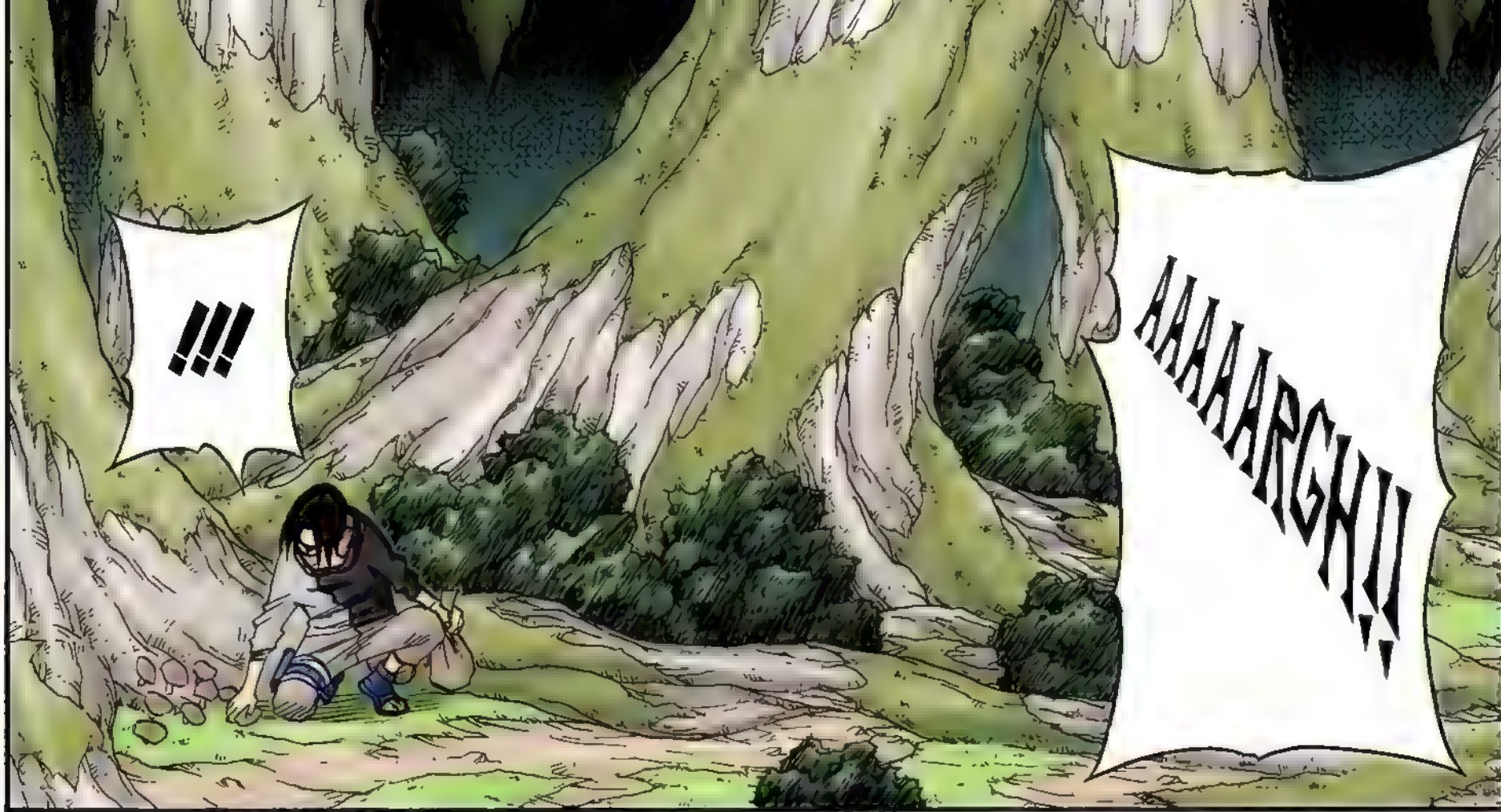
...THESE THINGS
HAVE SOME
KIND OF CRYPTIC
PASSWORD
WRITTEN IN THEM
THAT DOESN'T
MAKE SENSE
UNTIL YOU BRING
BOTH PIECES
TOGETHER.

WELL,
USUALLY...











AND WE'RE ALMOST OUT OF TIME!!

THIS IS NOT GOOD! THEY'RE BOTH UNCONSCIOUS...

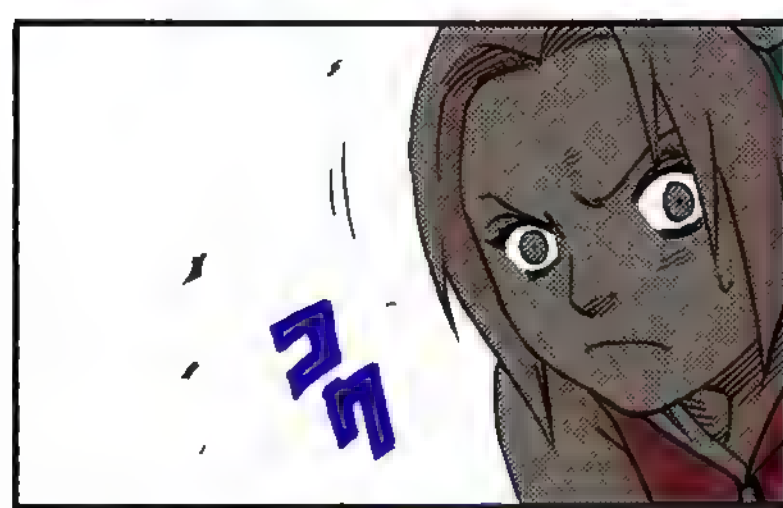


H-HEY! WHAT IS IT?!

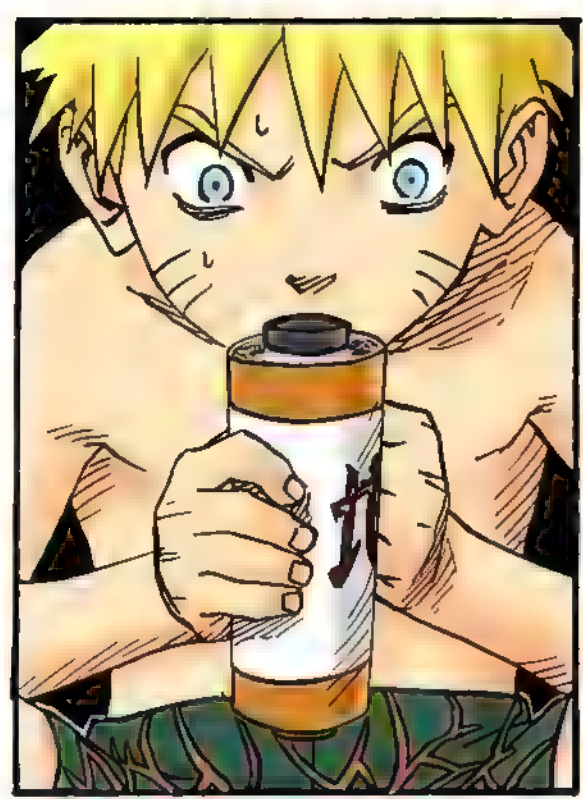
WHAT HAPPENED?! HEY!!

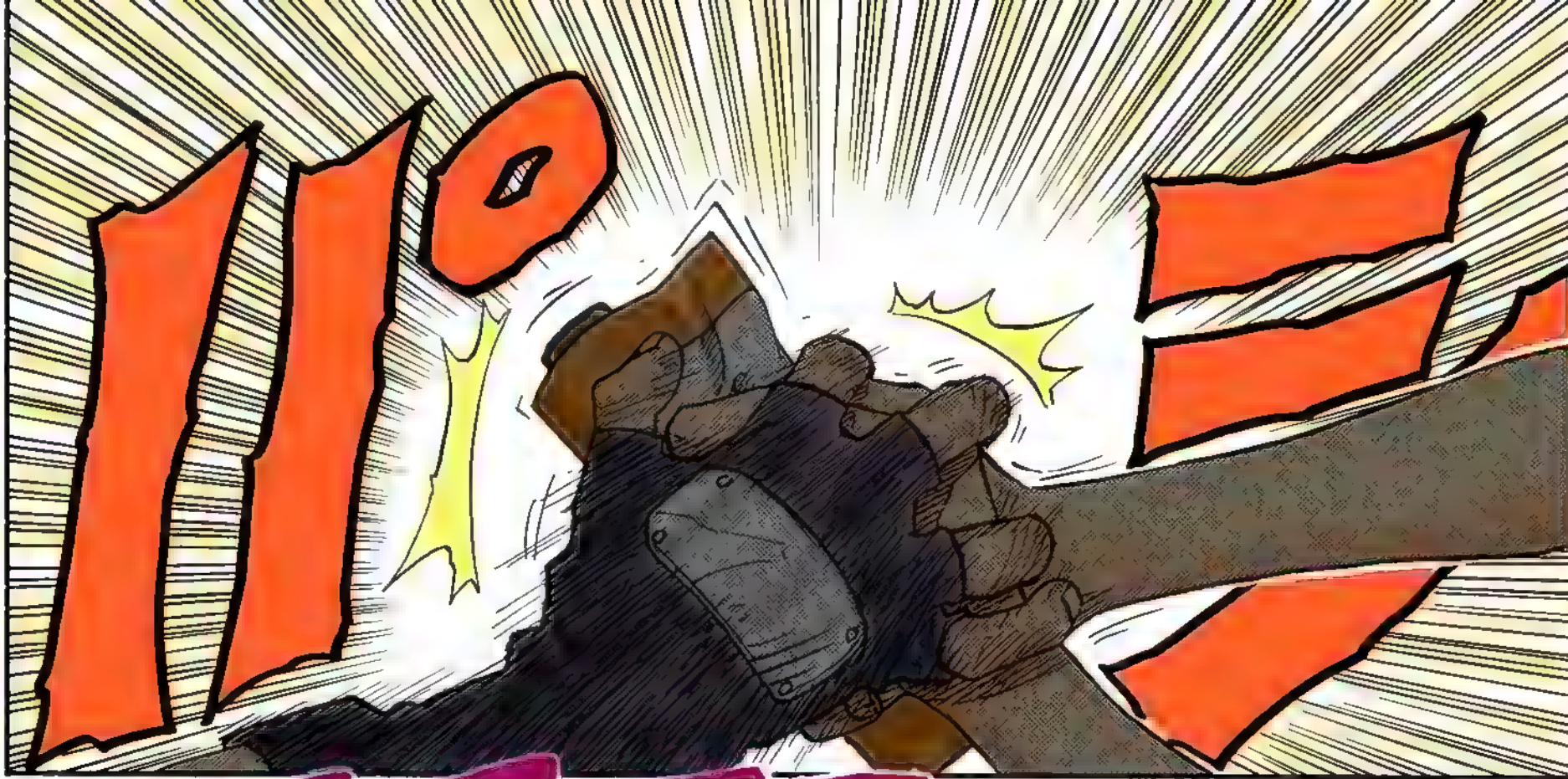


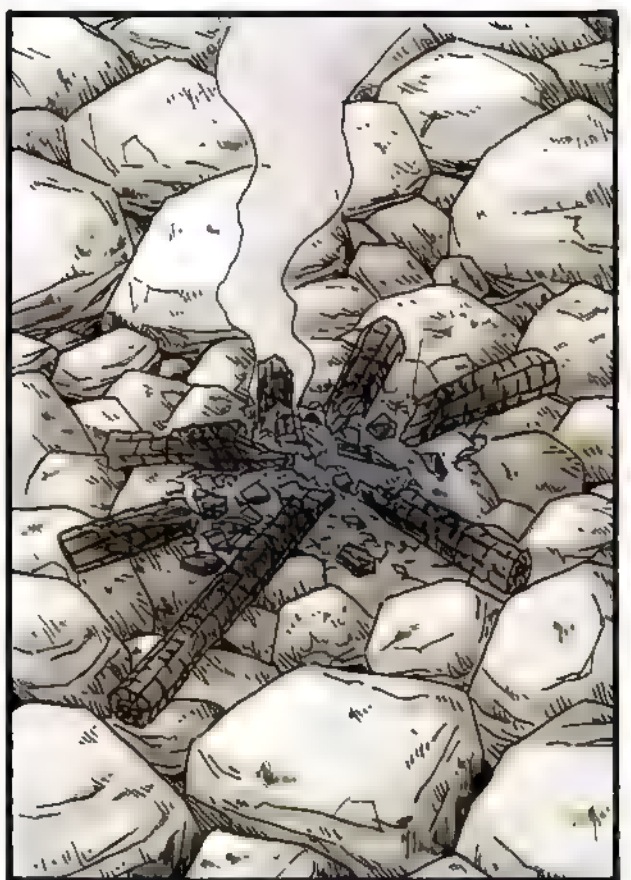
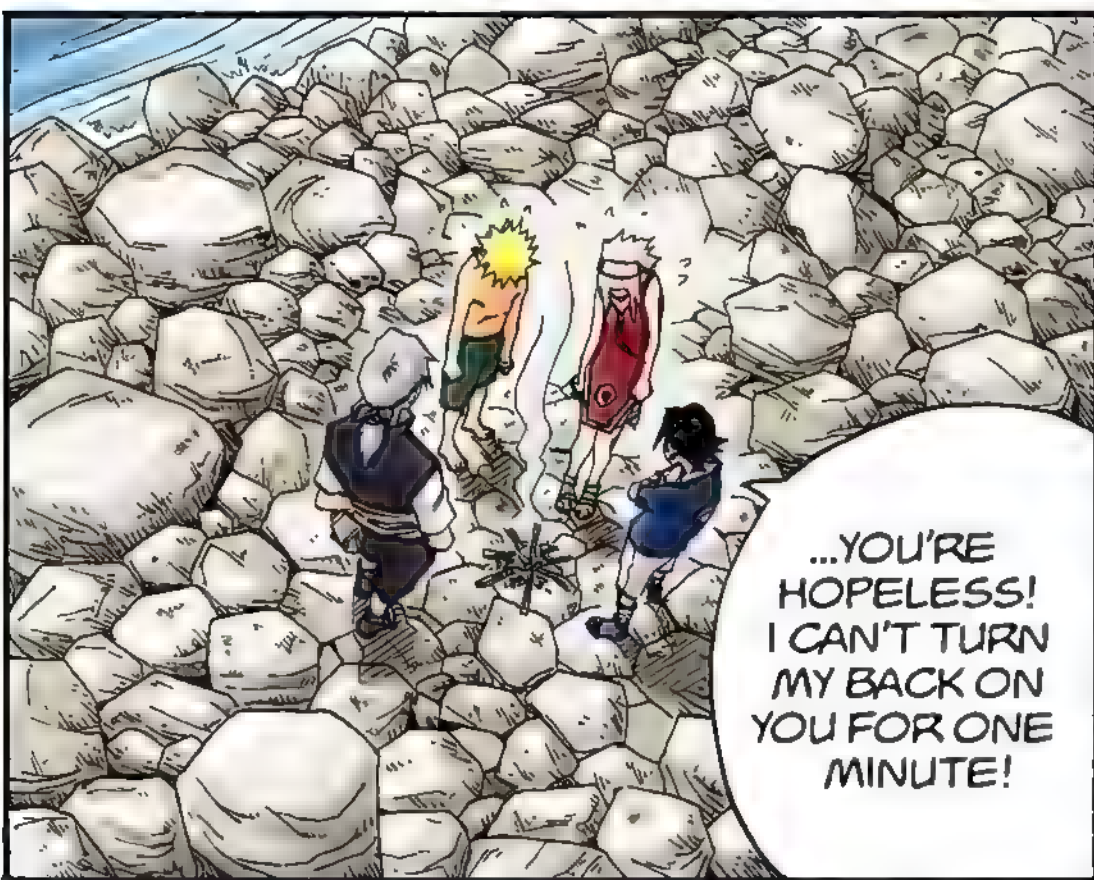
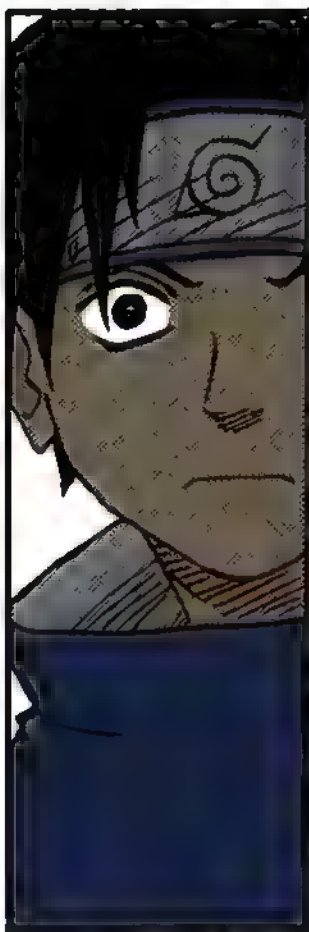
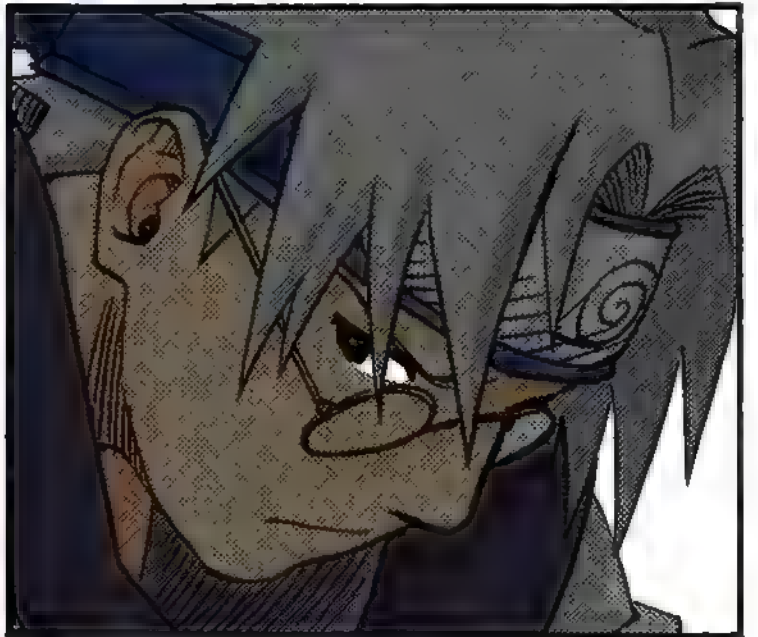
.....

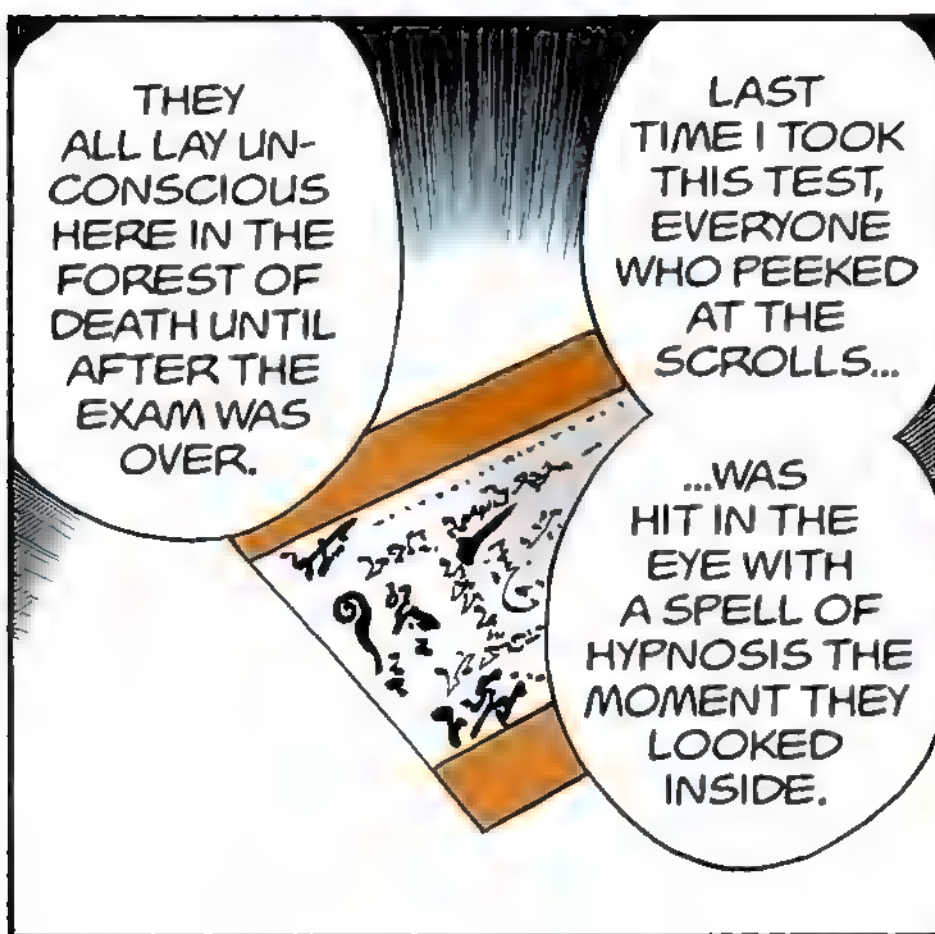


PEEL









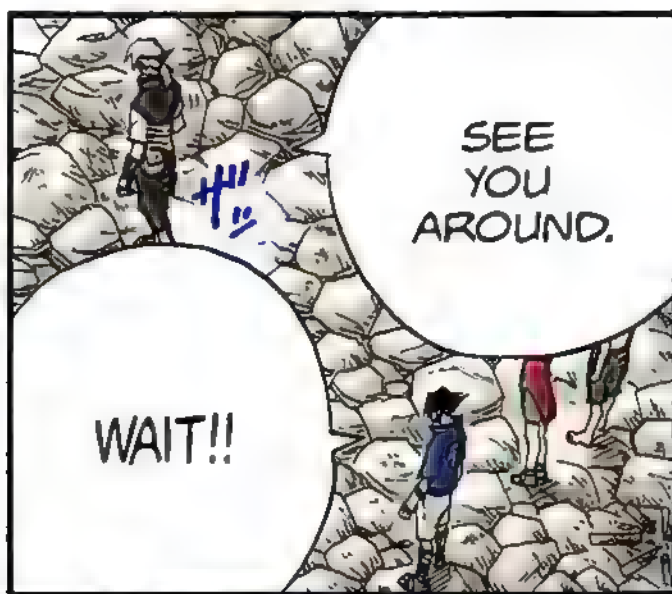


BUT I GOT
SEPARATED
FROM MY TEAM.
I'M ON MY WAY
TO JOIN UP
WITH THEM AT
THE TOWER
NOW.



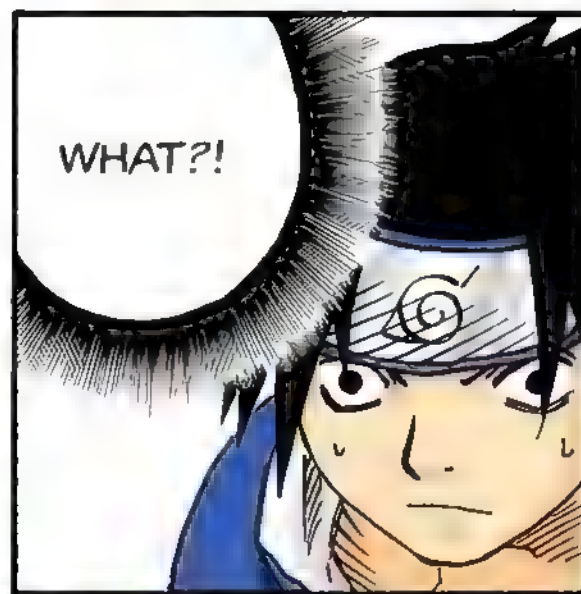
NOPE...
I'VE
ALREADY
GOT A
SET.

BUT
YOU'RE
STILL AFTER
THE HEAVEN
SCROLL,
TOO,
AREN'T
YOU?

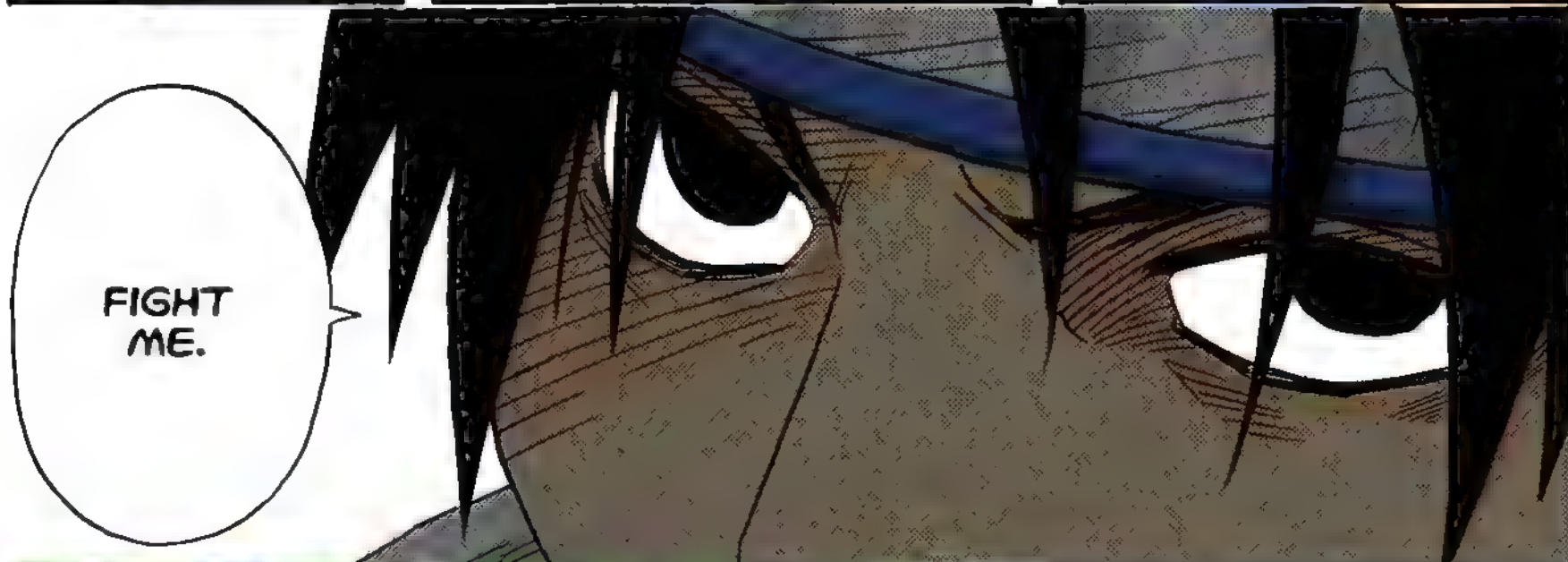


SEE
YOU
AROUND.

WAIT!!



WHAT?!



FIGHT
ME.



SWEET....!!



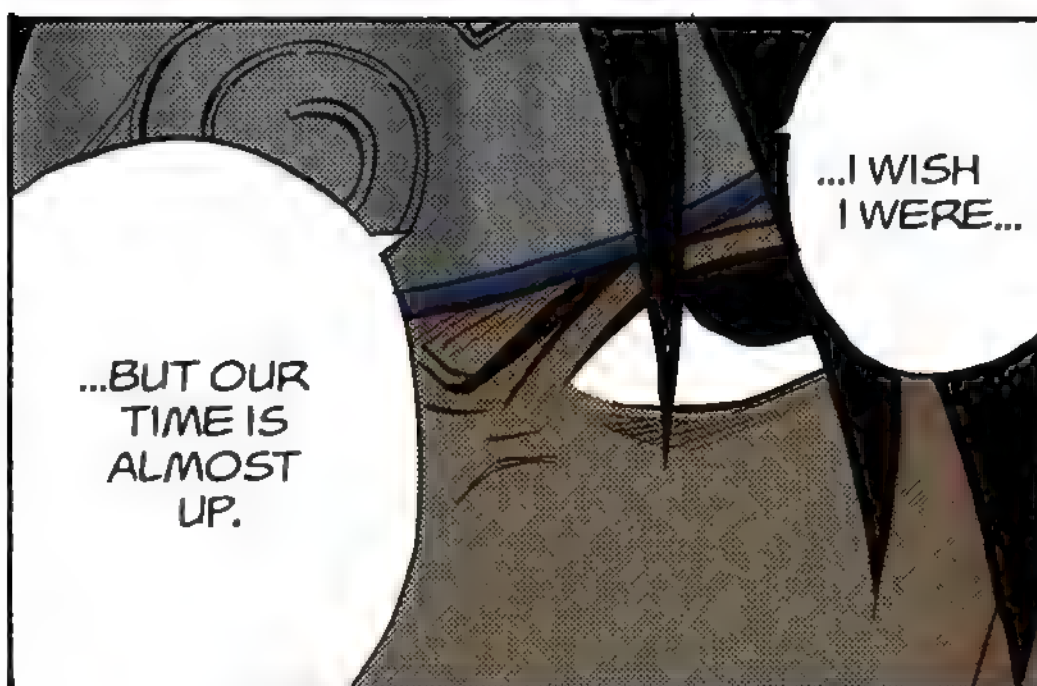
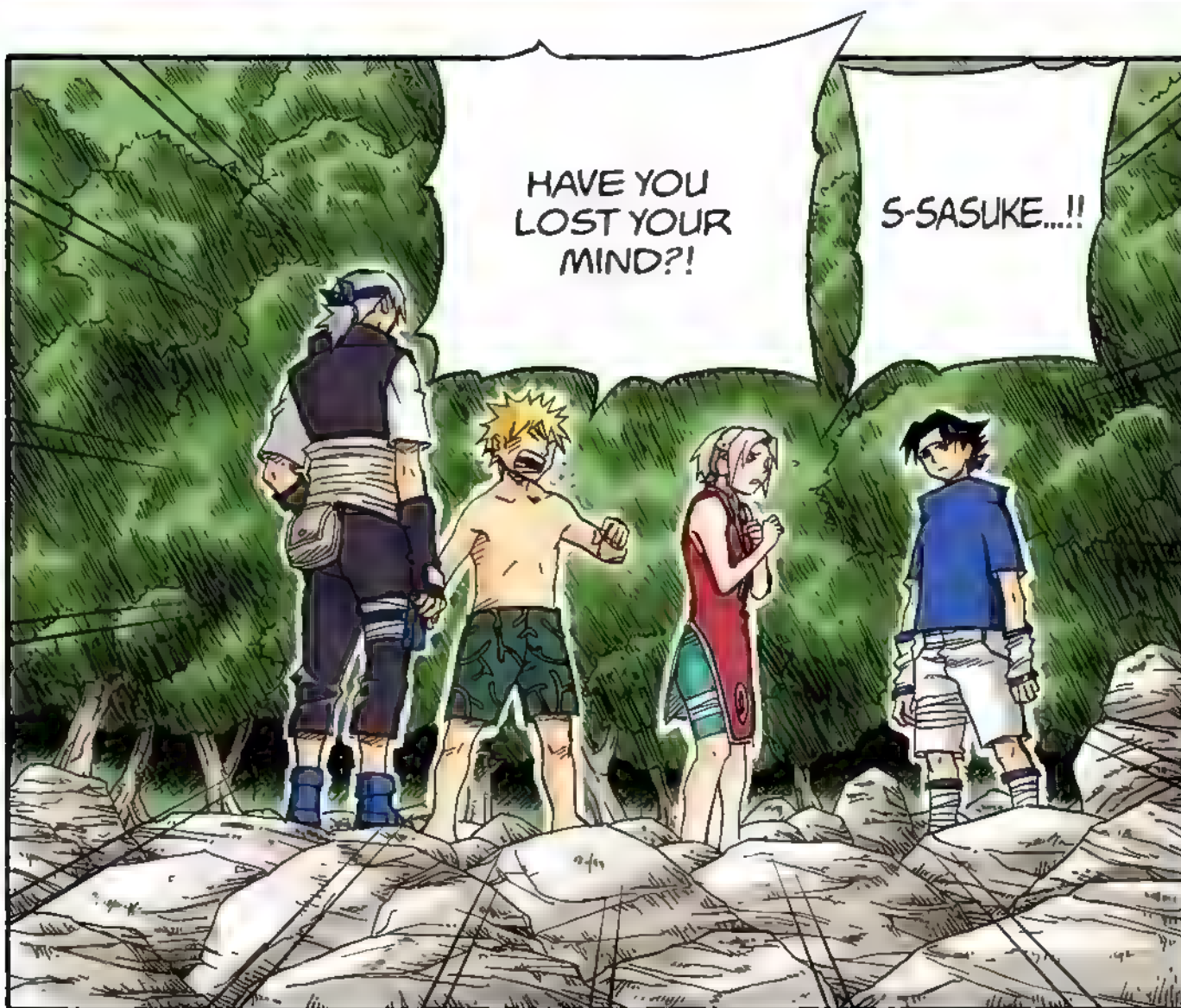
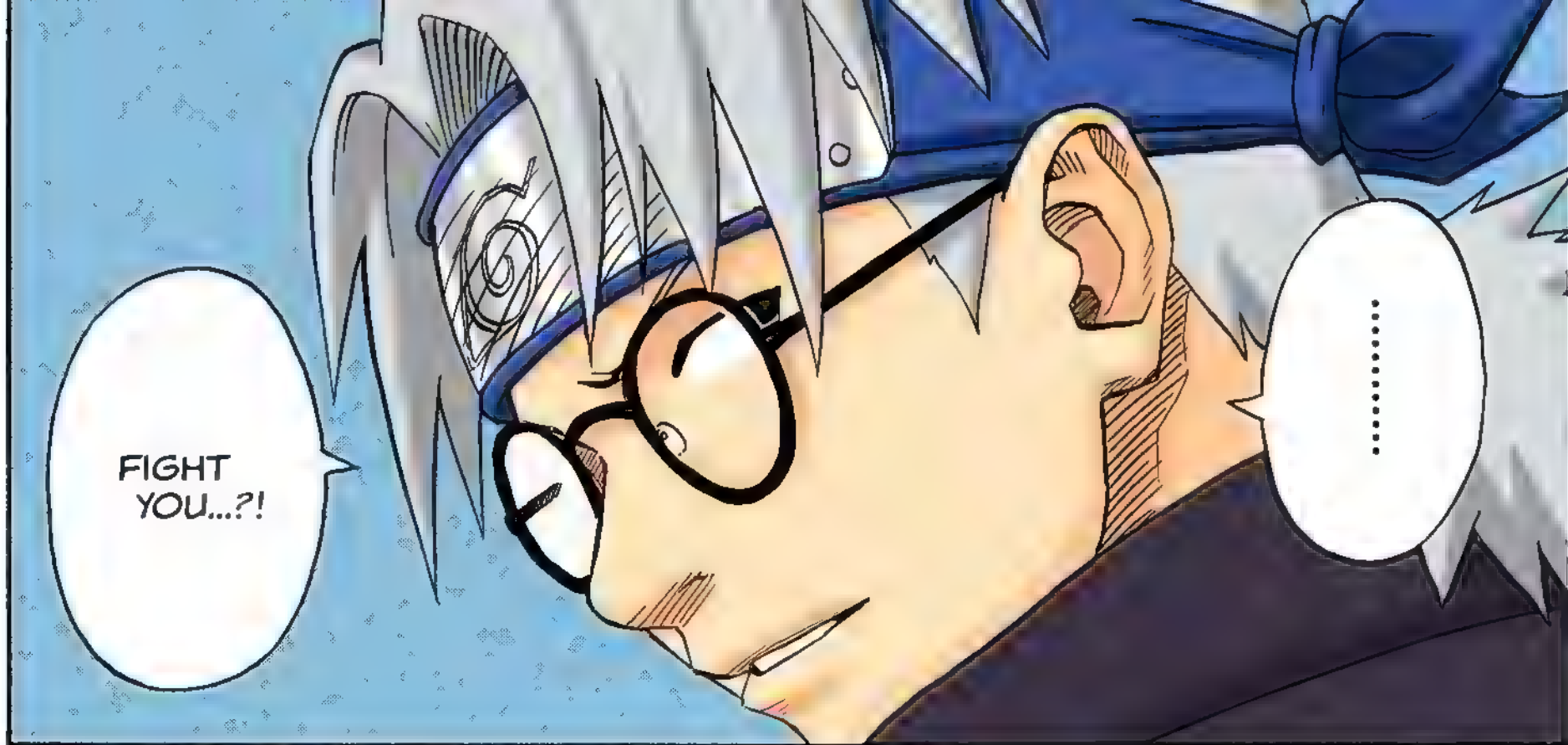
ナンバー

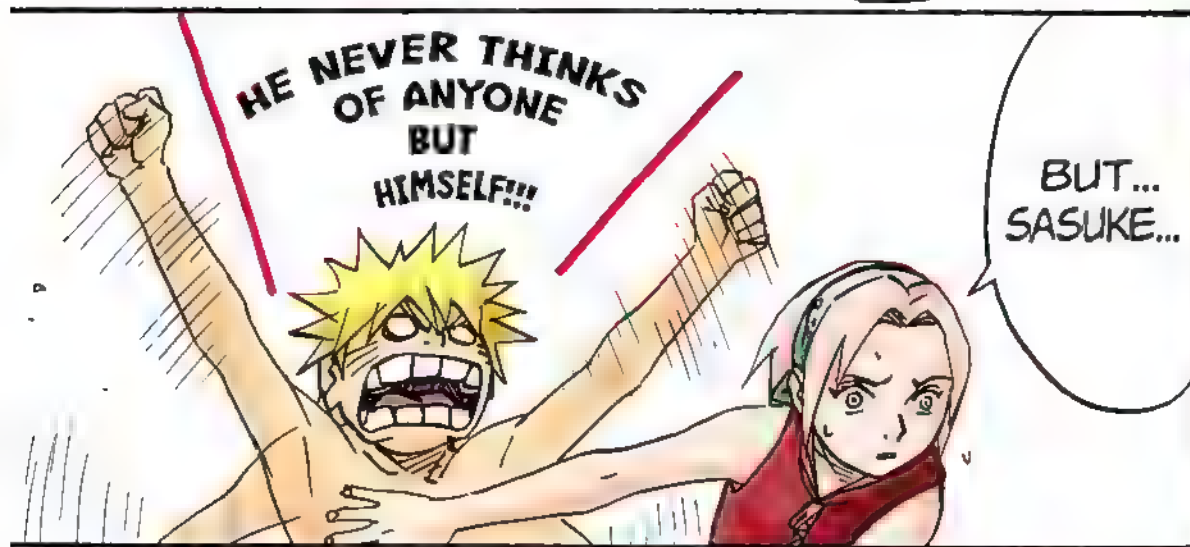


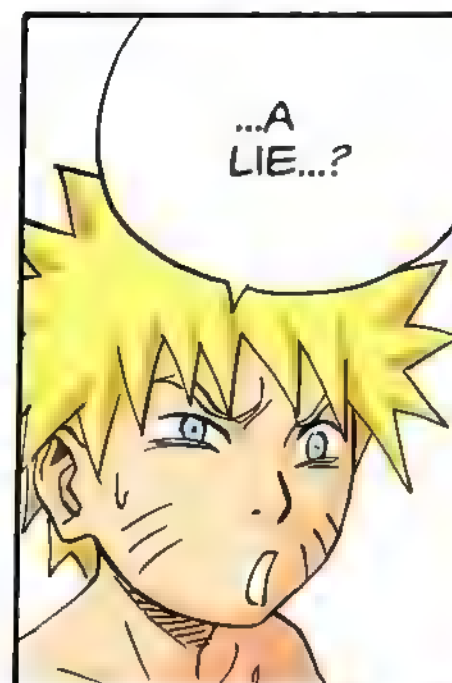
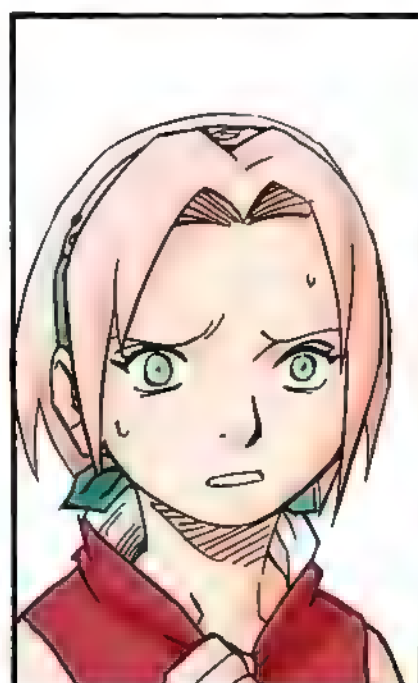
61 :

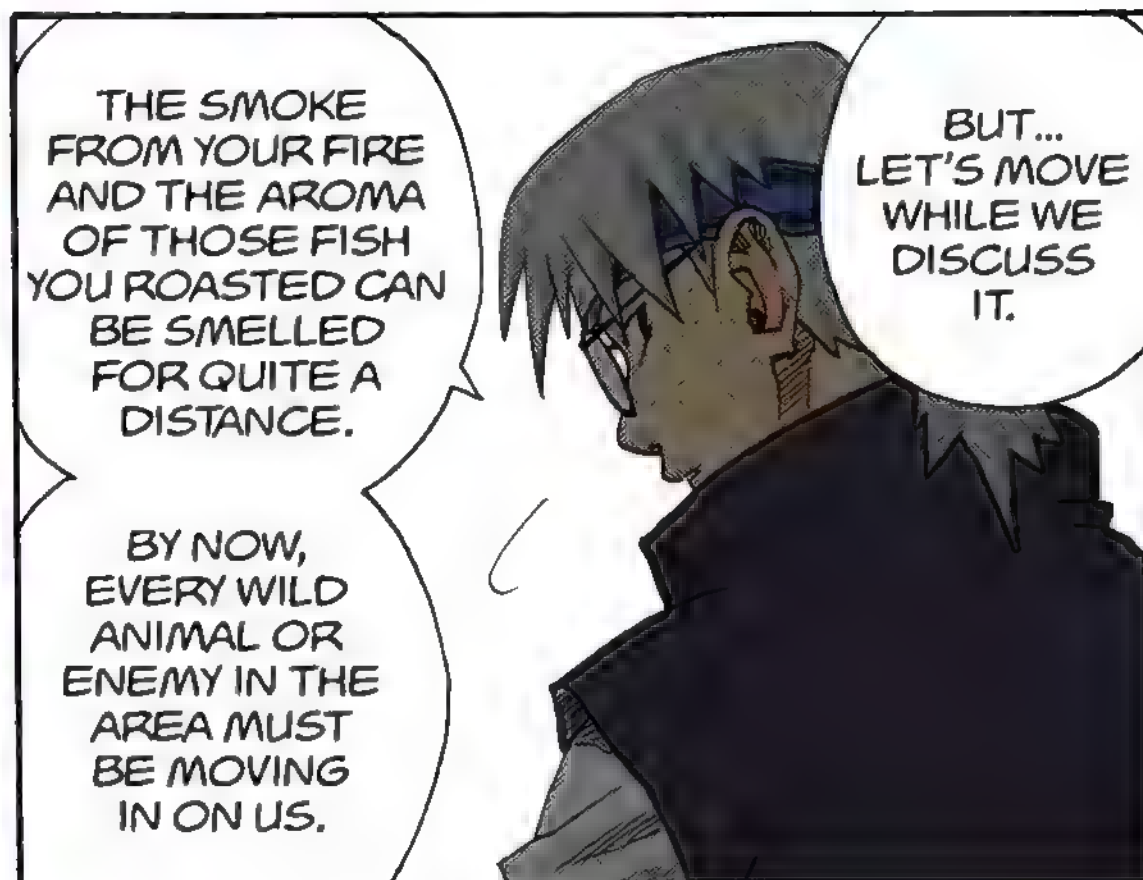
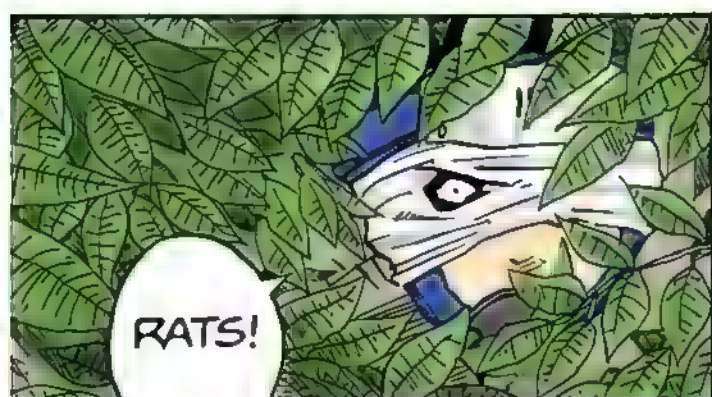
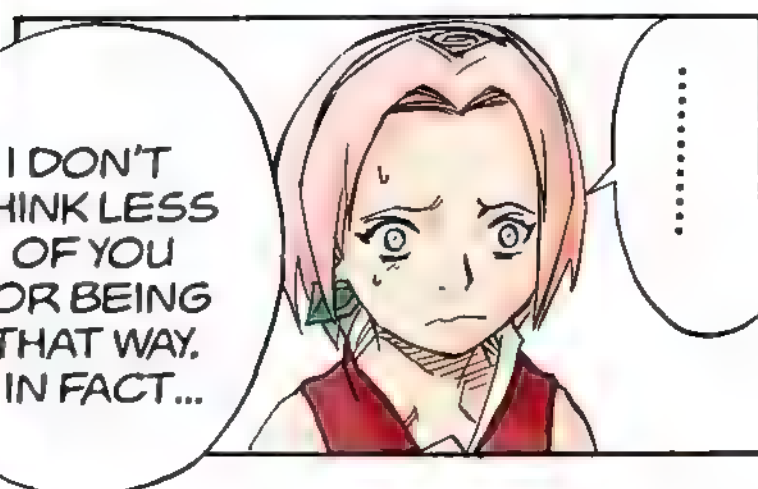
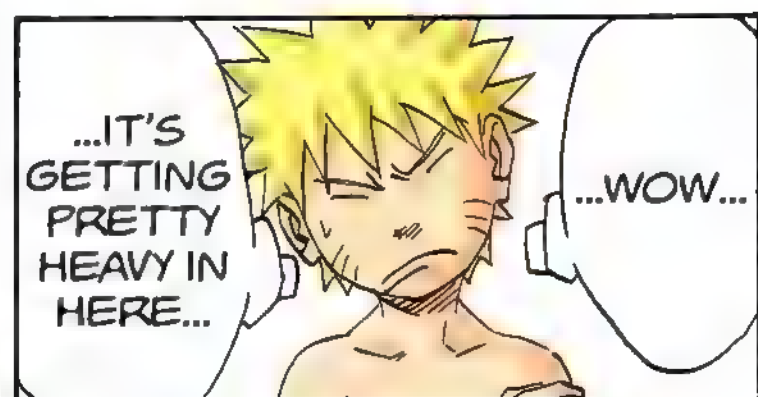
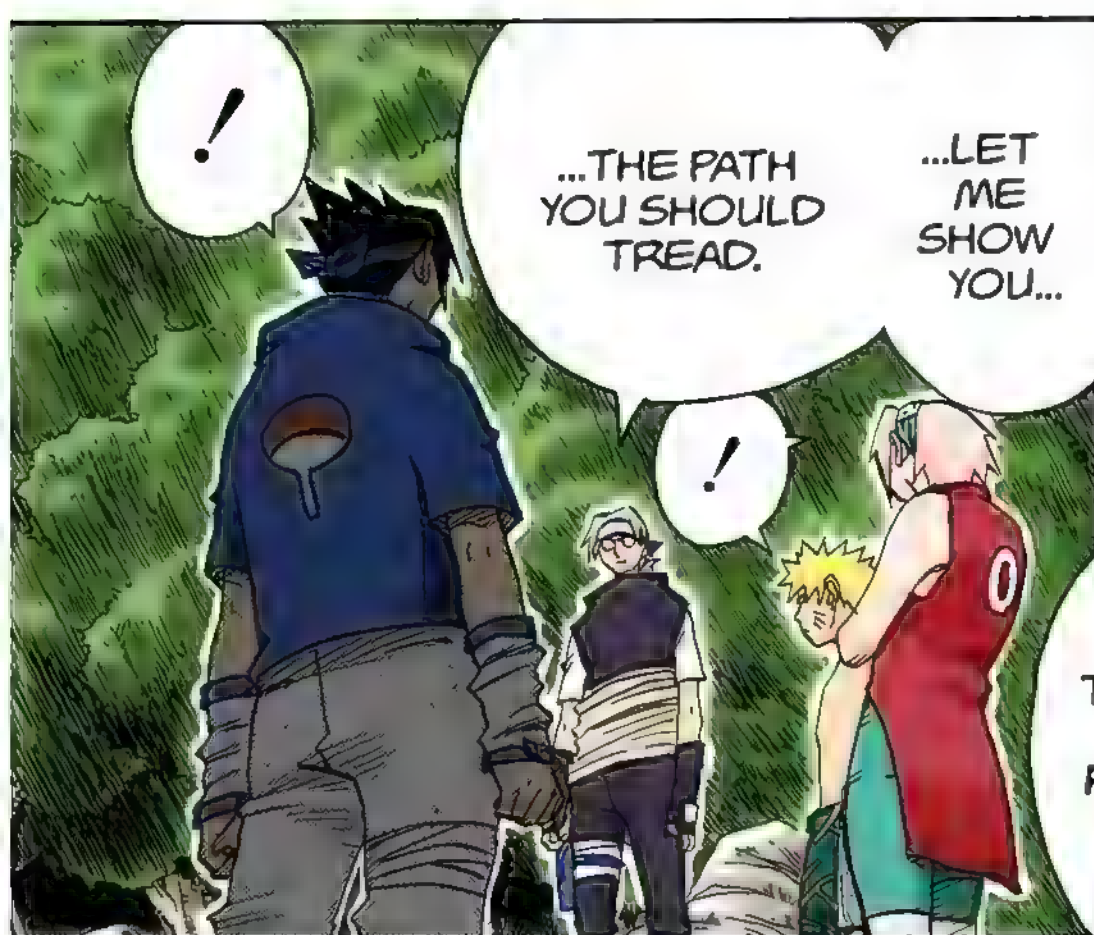
THE PAIN YOU SHOULD TREAD!!



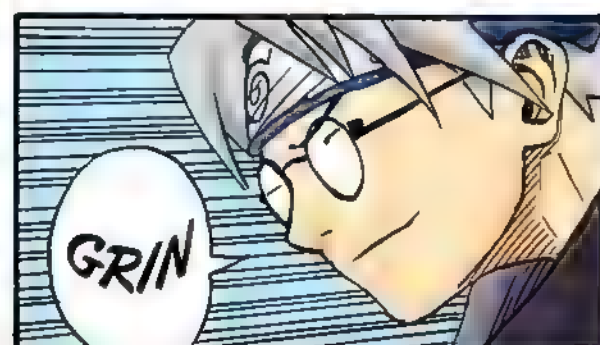
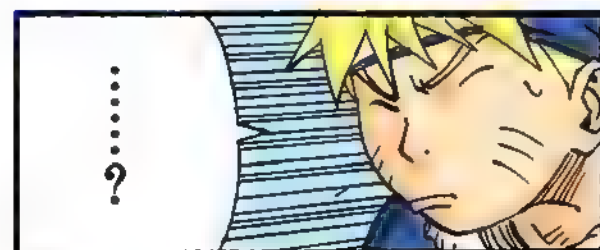
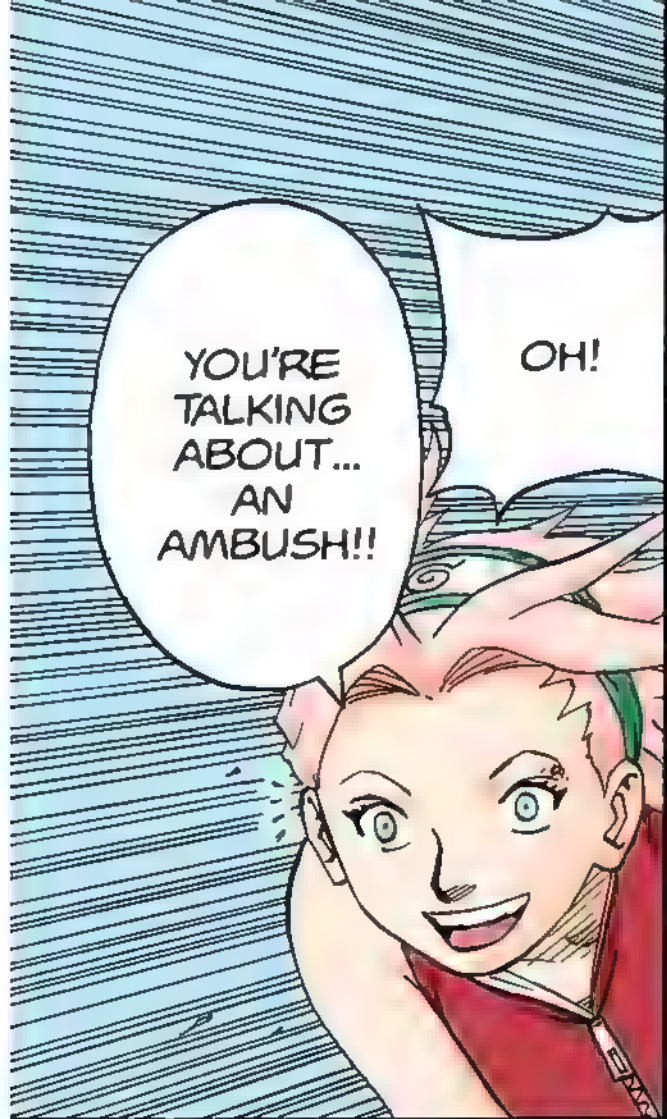






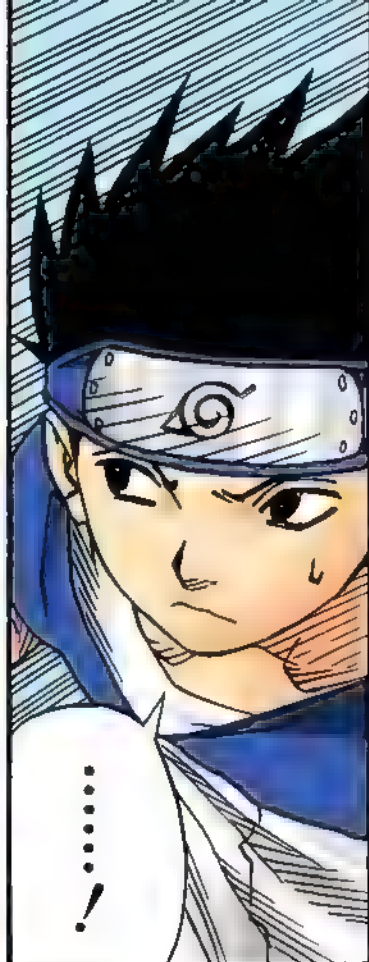








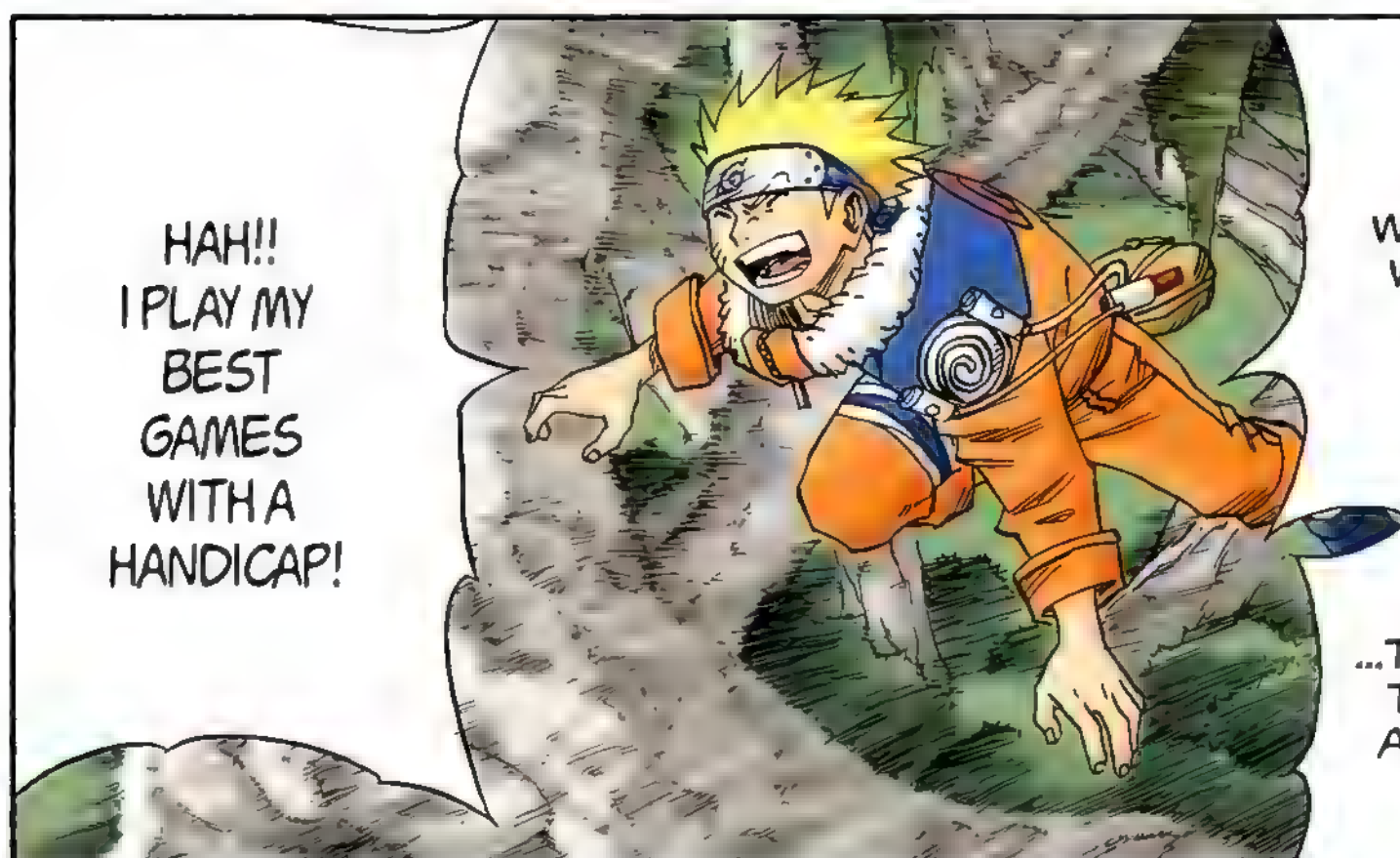
...SO THERE ARE GOING TO BE A LOT OF DESPERATE CHARACTERS SETTING SNARES FOR THE UNWARY AROUND THAT TOWER.



.....!



FIRST OF ALL, YOU WON'T BE THE ONLY ONES WHO'VE FIGURED THAT OUT...



HAH!! I PLAY MY BEST GAMES WITH A HANDICAP!

I GET IT! WHILE WE'RE WAITING TO AMBUSH THEM...

...THEY'LL BE TRYING TO AMBUSH US!!



KABUTO... WHAT'S THE REST OF THE ANSWER...?



...AND WALK AWAY WITH THE OTHER SCROLL WE NEED TO PASS THE SECOND EXAM!!

THIS IS GONNA BE SWEET! IT'LL BE WORTH A LITTLE SWEAT IF WE GET TO KICK EVERYONE ELSE'S BUTTS...

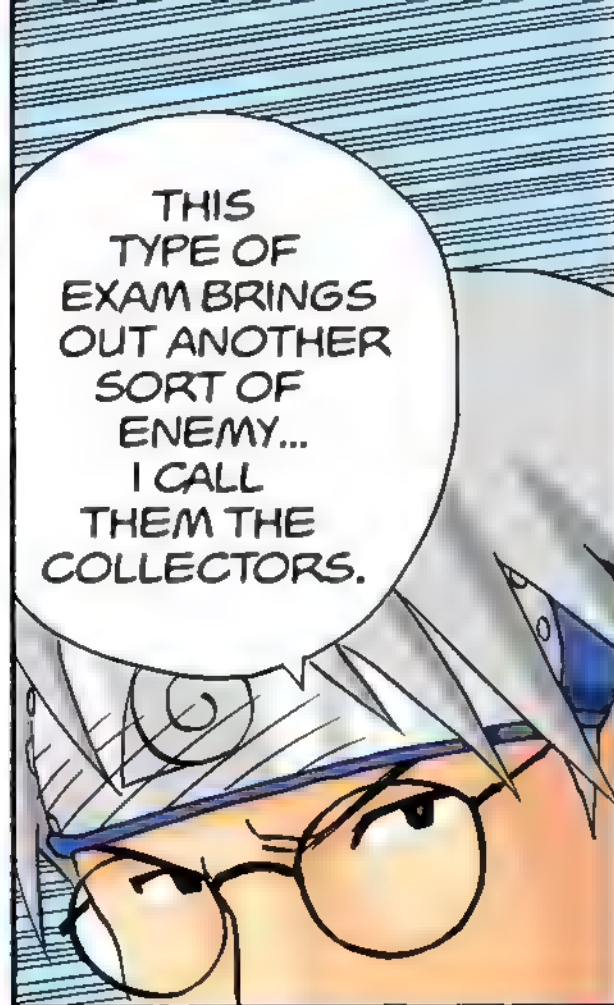


...AND YOU THINK YOU'RE HOME FREE, DON'T RELAX YOUR GUARD FOR AN INSTANT. THE CONDITIONS OF THIS EXAM ARE APT TO GIVE RISE TO THEM...

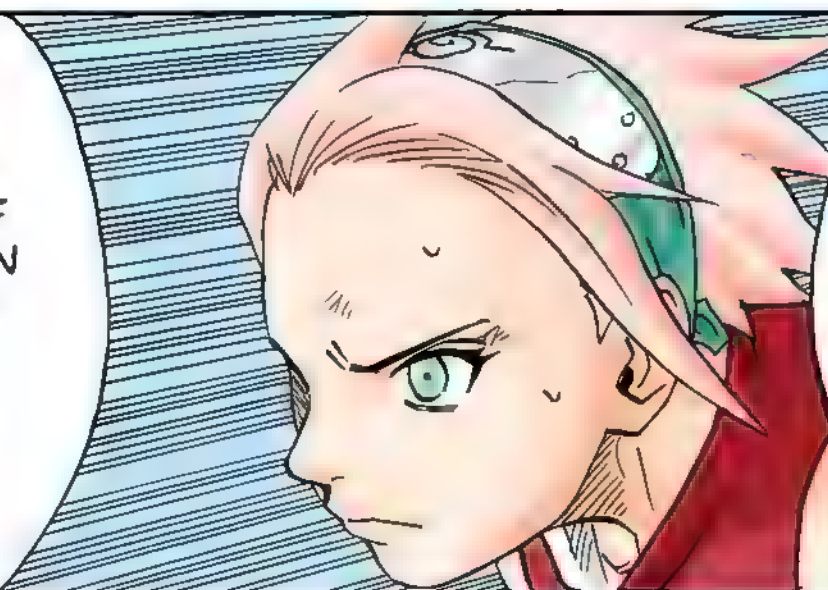
EVEN WHEN YOU'RE STANDING AT THE TOWER DOOR...

COLLECTORS?

THIS TYPE OF EXAM BRINGS OUT ANOTHER SORT OF ENEMY... I CALL THEM THE COLLECTORS.

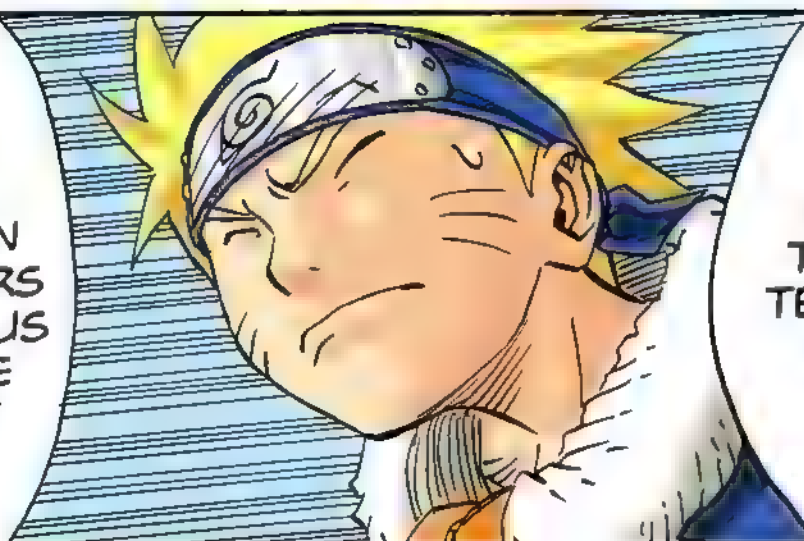


...SO THEY TRY TO GET THEIR HANDS ON AS MANY EXTRA SETS OF SCROLLS AS THEY CAN TO BUY THEMSELVES SAFE PASSAGE FROM ANYONE THEY CAN'T OR WON'T FACE FAIRLY.



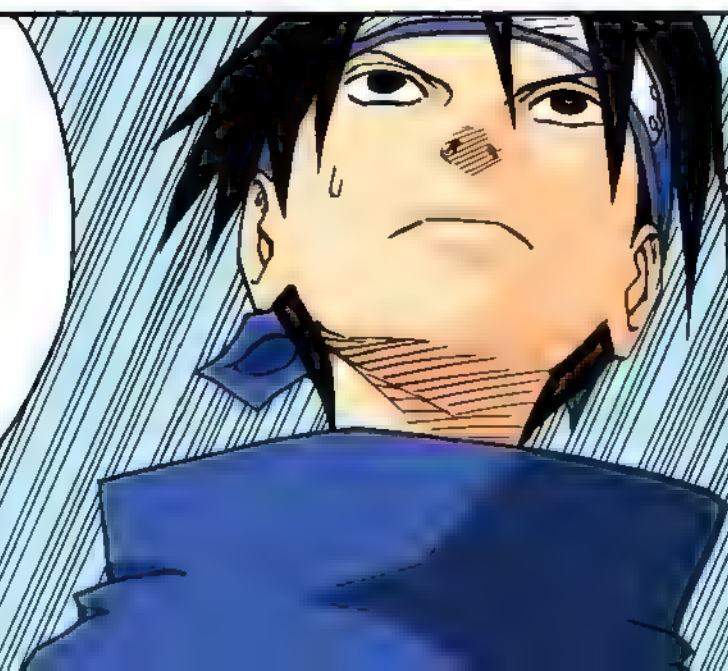
...BOTTOM FEEDERS. THEY'RE THE ONES WHO MAY NOT BE GOOD ENOUGH TO BEAT EVERY ENEMY THEY FIND...

...BECAUSE IF THOSE TEAMS ARE ON THEIR SECOND OR THIRD ATTEMPTS AT PASSING THE CHÛNIN EXAMS, THE COLLECTORS CAN BARTER THE SURPLUS SCROLLS FOR ADVANCE INTELLIGENCE ABOUT THE NEXT STAGES OF THE TEST.

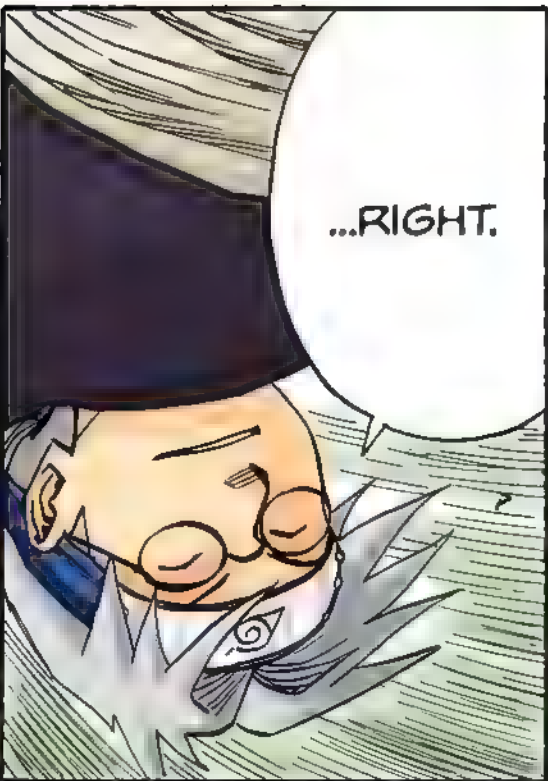


SOME OF THEM ALSO WANT TO HAVE EXTRA SCROLLS TO OFFER OTHER TEAMS FROM THEIR HOME VILLAGES WHO MAY NOT HAVE FARED AS WELL...

...JUST SO THEY'LL HAVE LESS COMPETITION TO DEAL WITH AS THEY MOVE ON TO THE THIRD EXAM AND BEYOND.



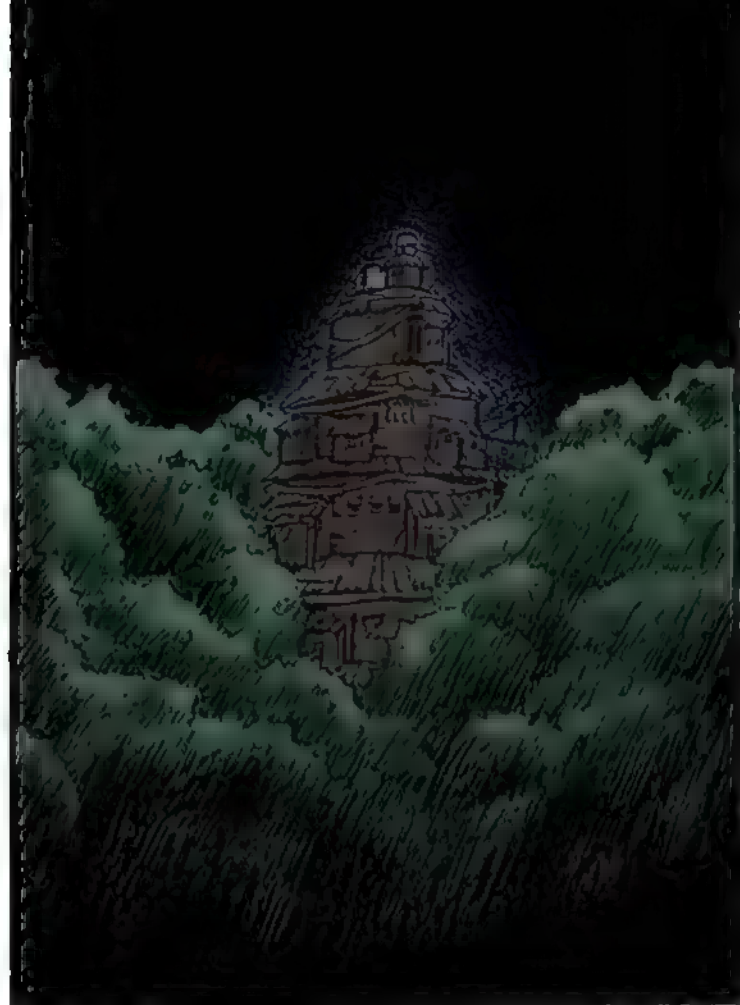
AND THERE ARE THOSE WHO AREN'T AFTER YOUR SCROLL... THEY'RE AFTER YOUR LIFE! THEY WANT TO ELIMINATE STRONG TEAMS NOW...





HERE'S
WHERE
THE FUN
REALLY
BEGINS.

WE'RE
IN VIEW
OF THE
TOWER..



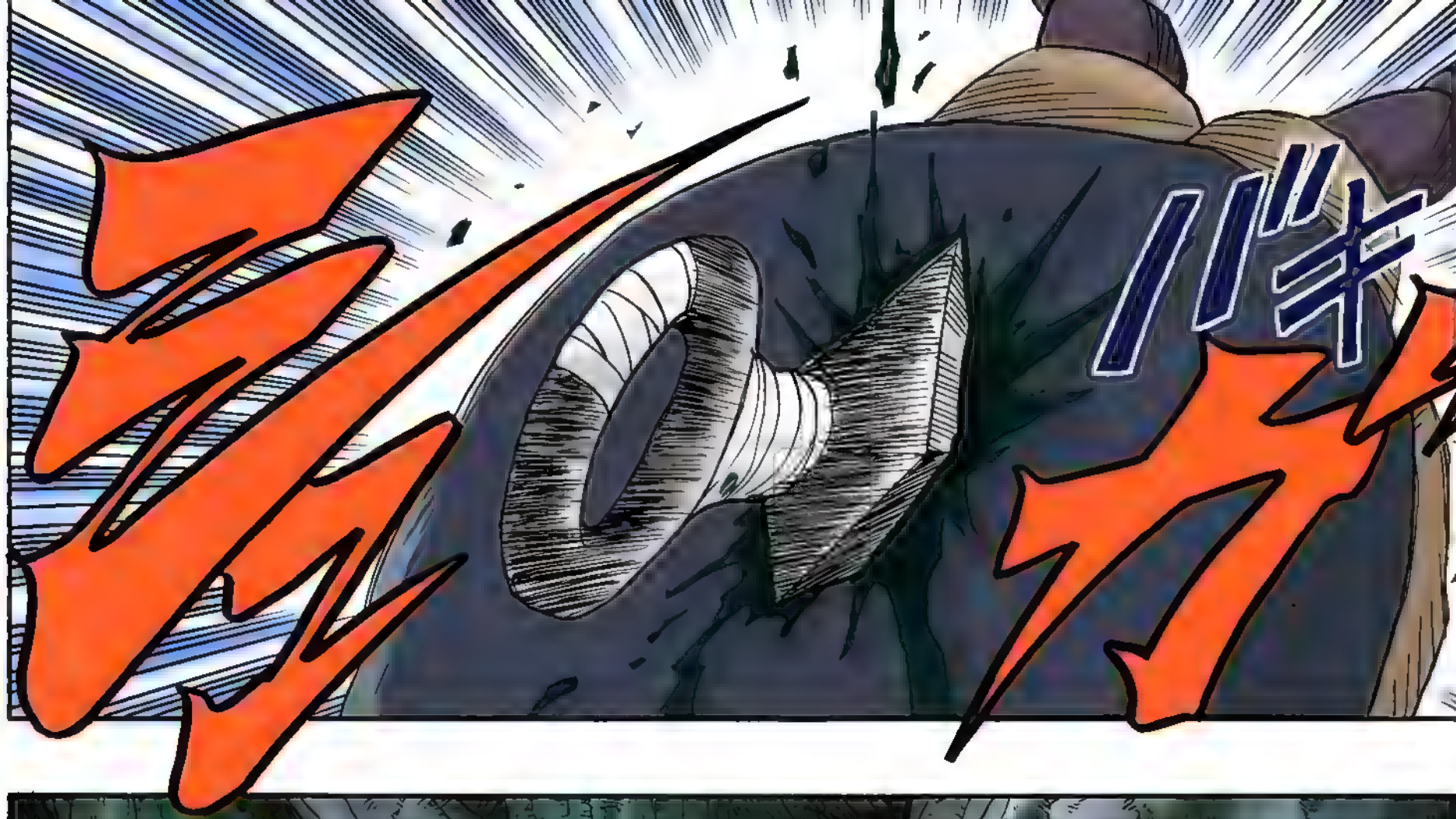
AN
ENEMY...
SO
SOON?!

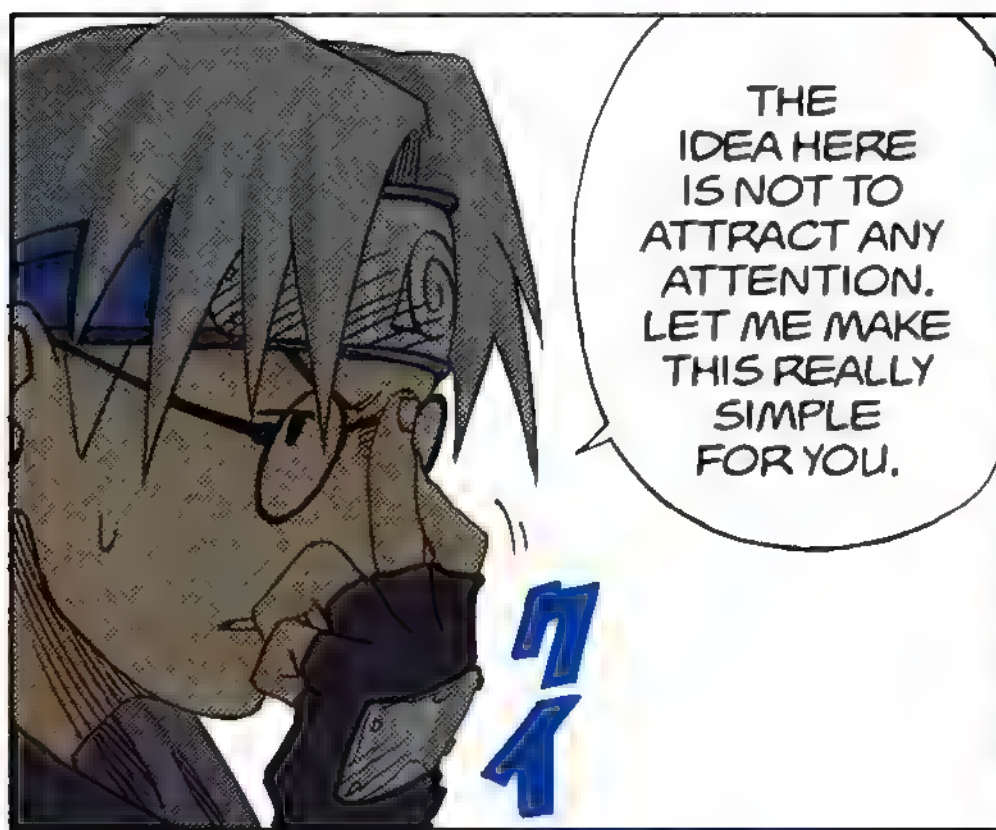


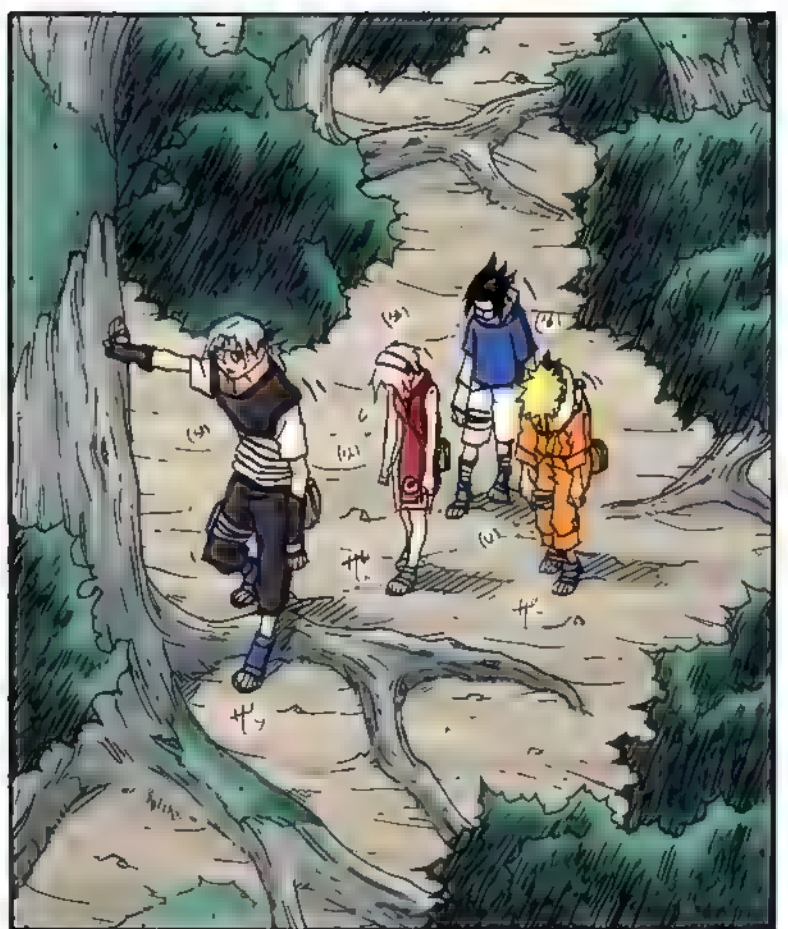
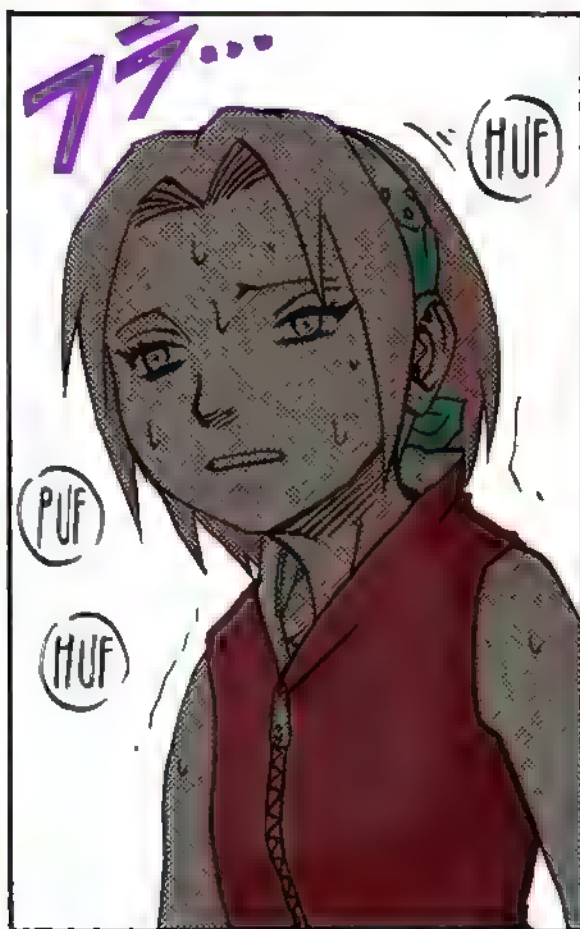
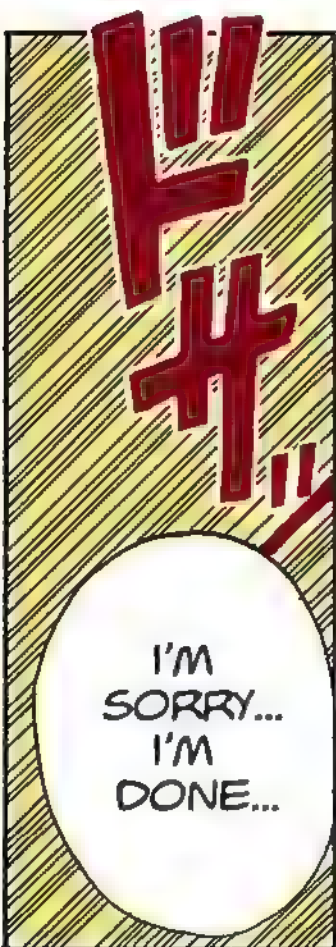
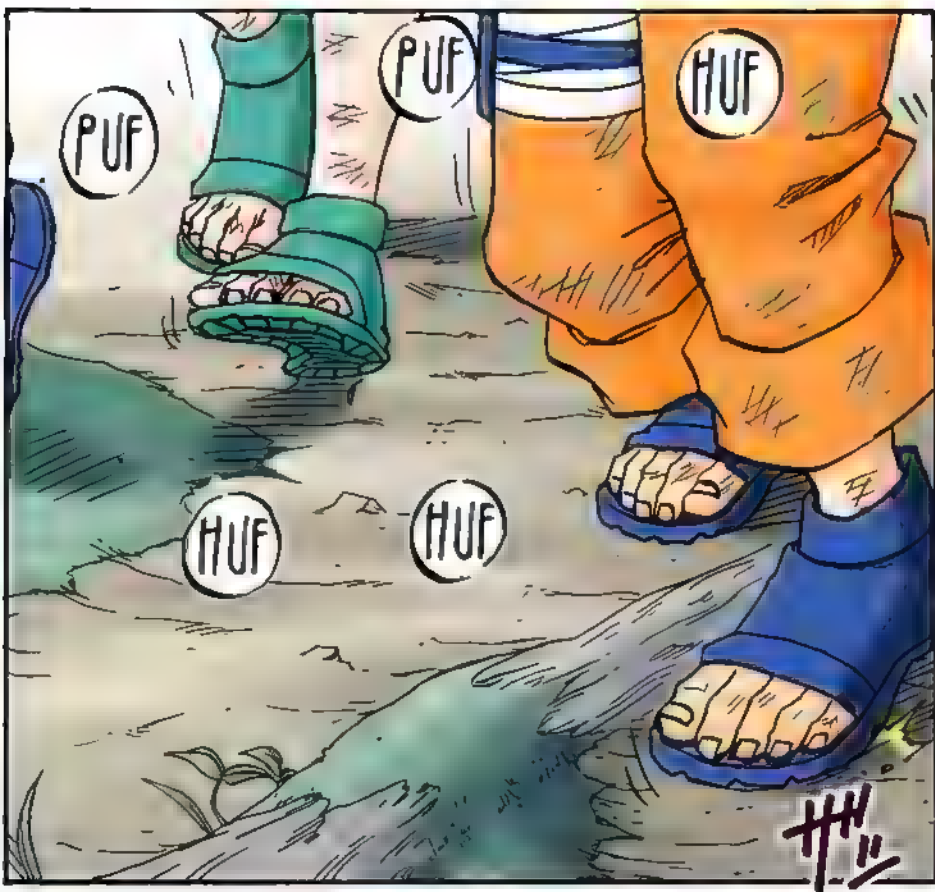
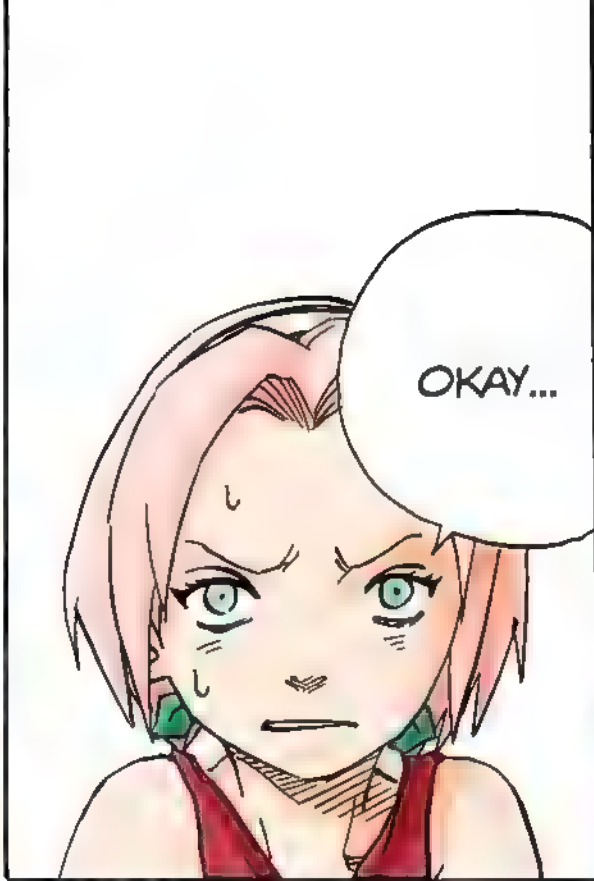
THEN LET'S
GET TO IT!!

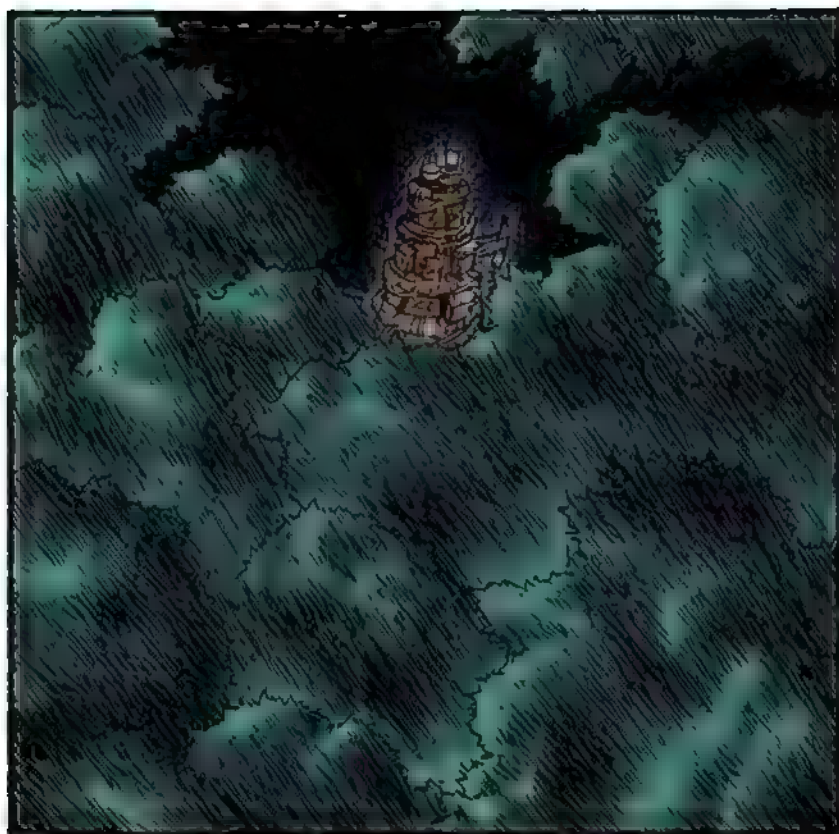


OVER
THERE!!









I-I DON'T
KNOW HOW
FAR WE'VE
COME...

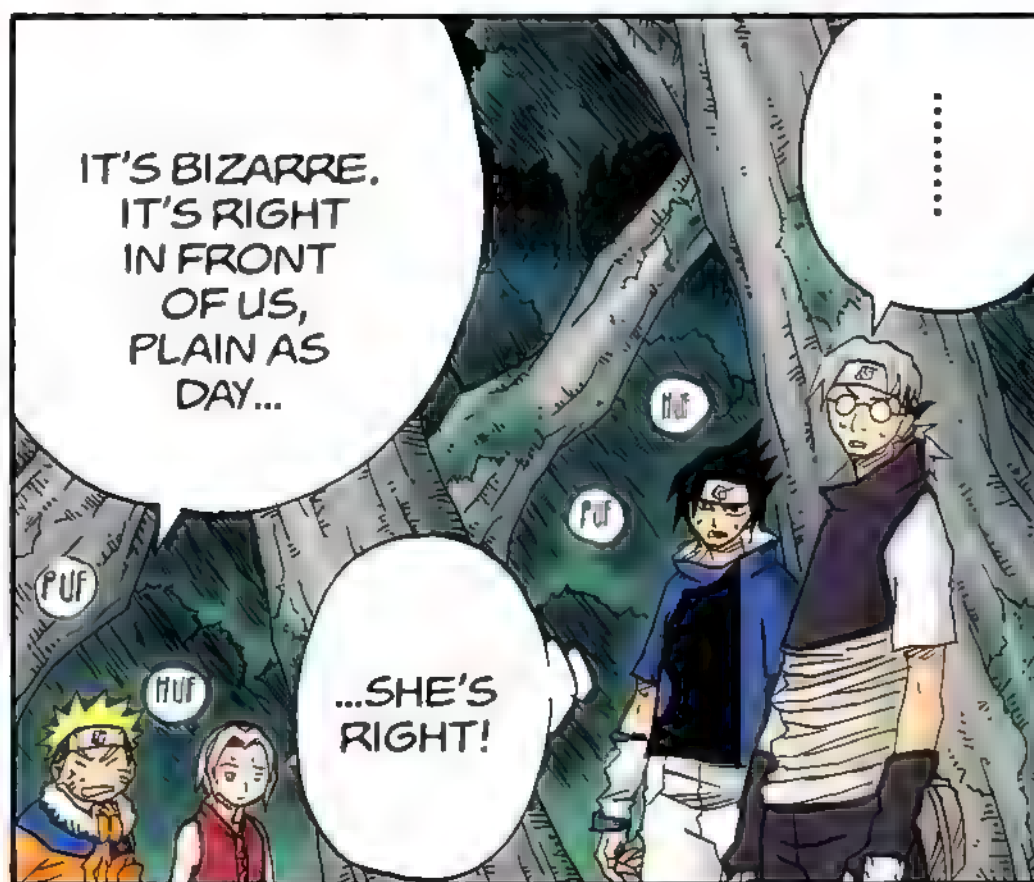
SAKURA....!!

BUT THE
TOWER
NEVER
GETS ANY
CLOSER.



...WE'RE
ALREADY
ENJOYING
SOME
ENEMY'S
WARM
WELCOME!

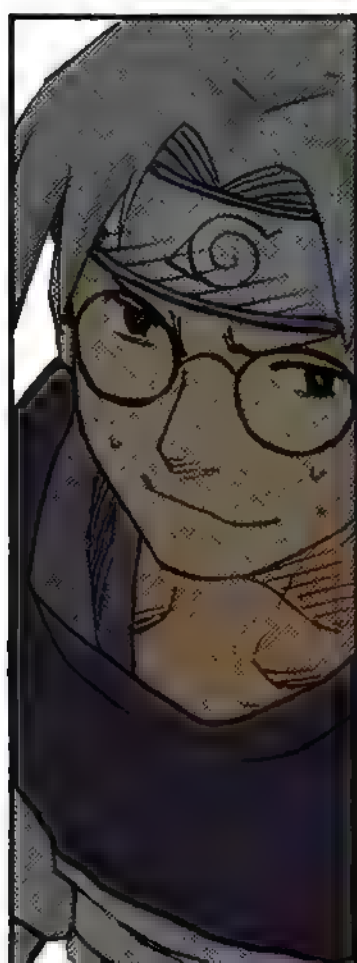
APPAR-
ENTLY...



IT'S BIZARRE.
IT'S RIGHT
IN FRONT
OF US,
PLAIN AS
DAY...

.....

...SHE'S
RIGHT!



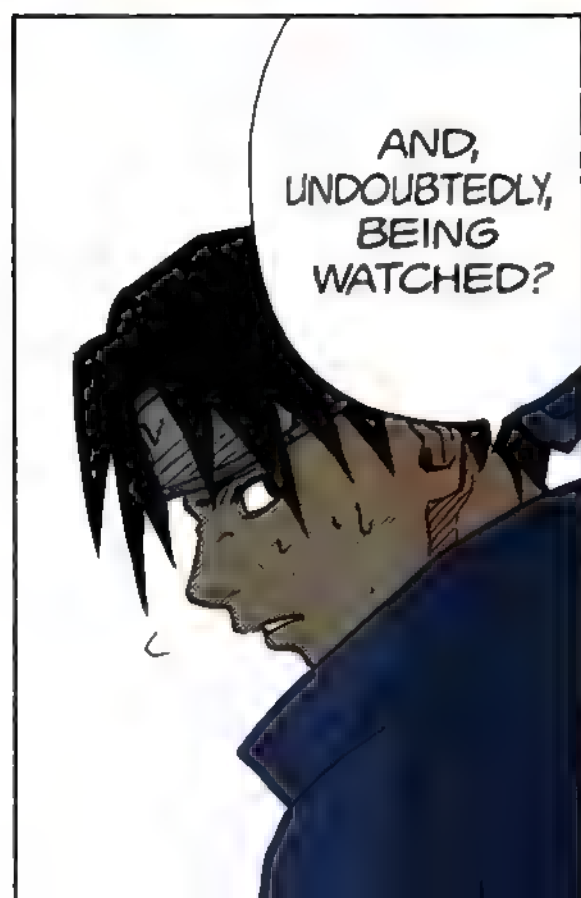
AW, MAN!
NO WAY!

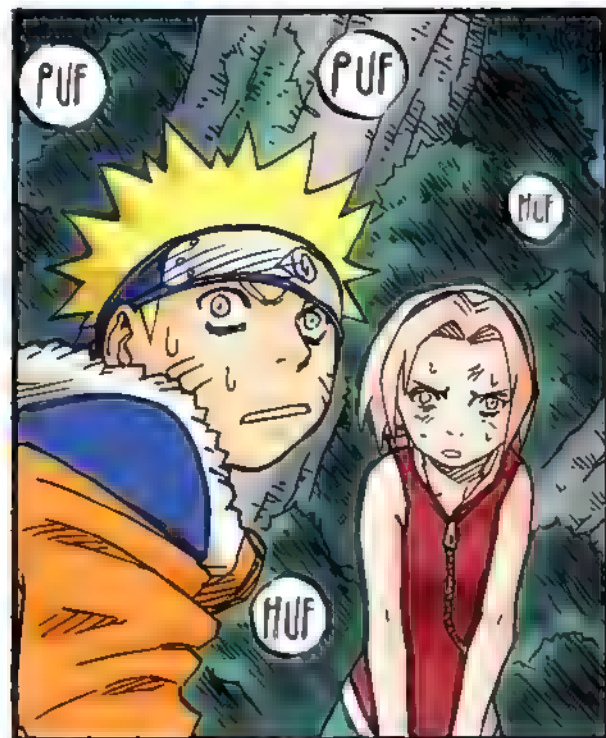
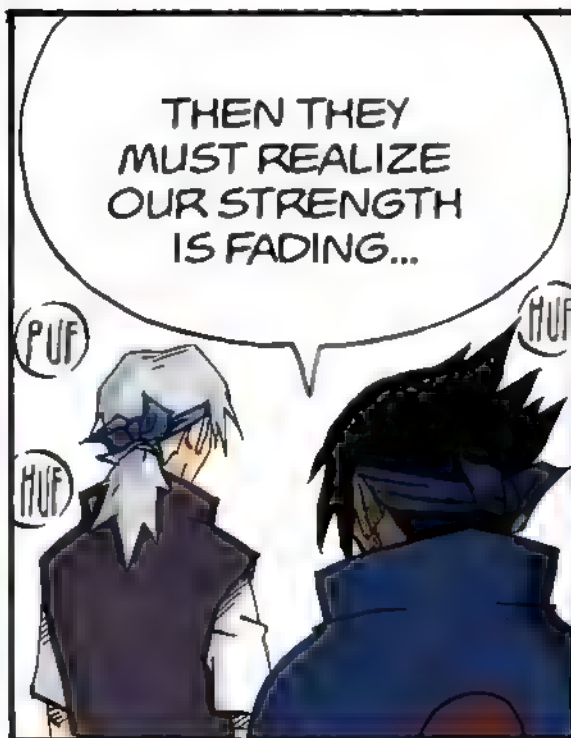
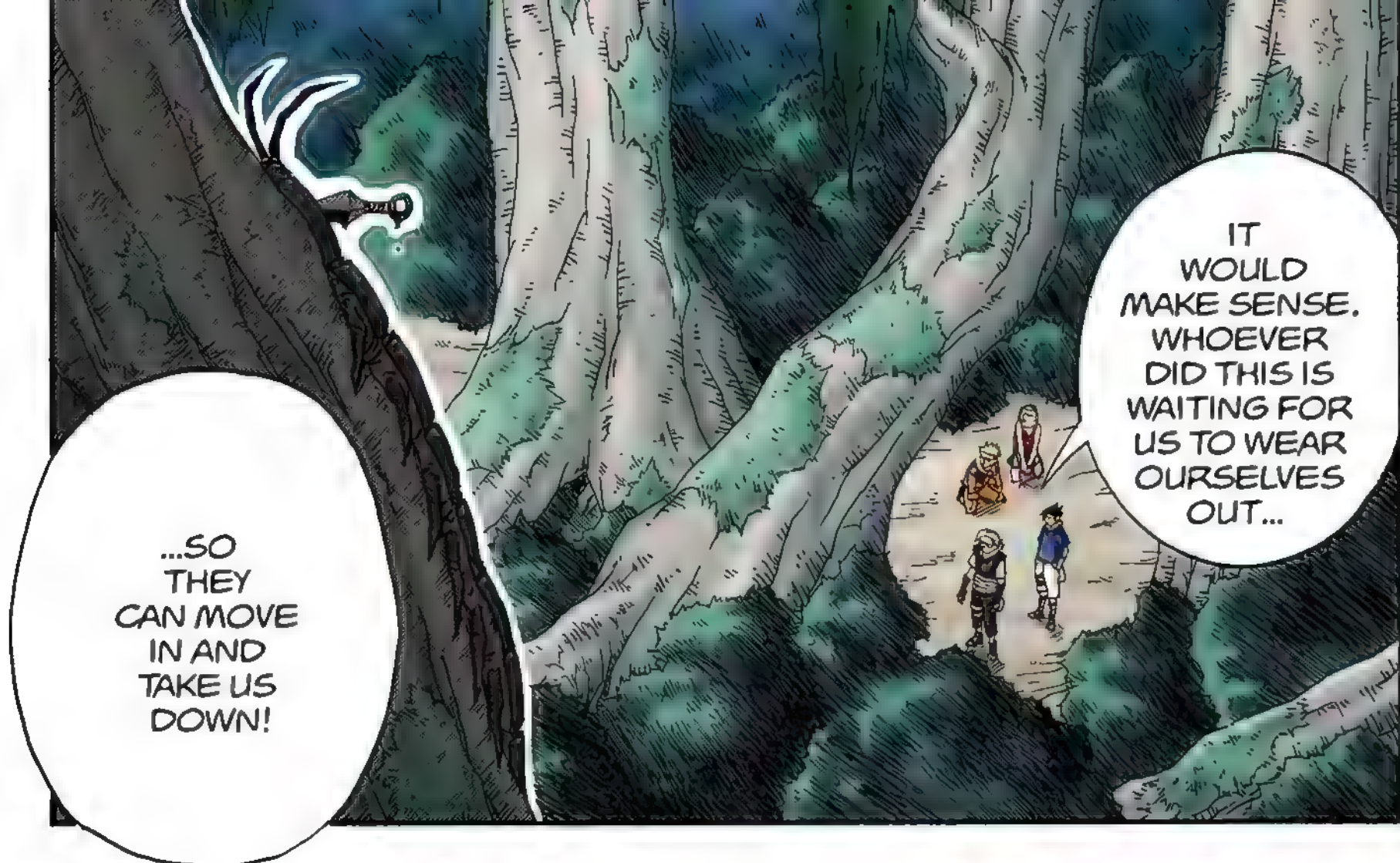


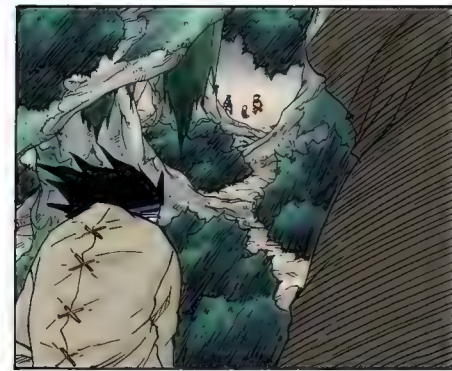
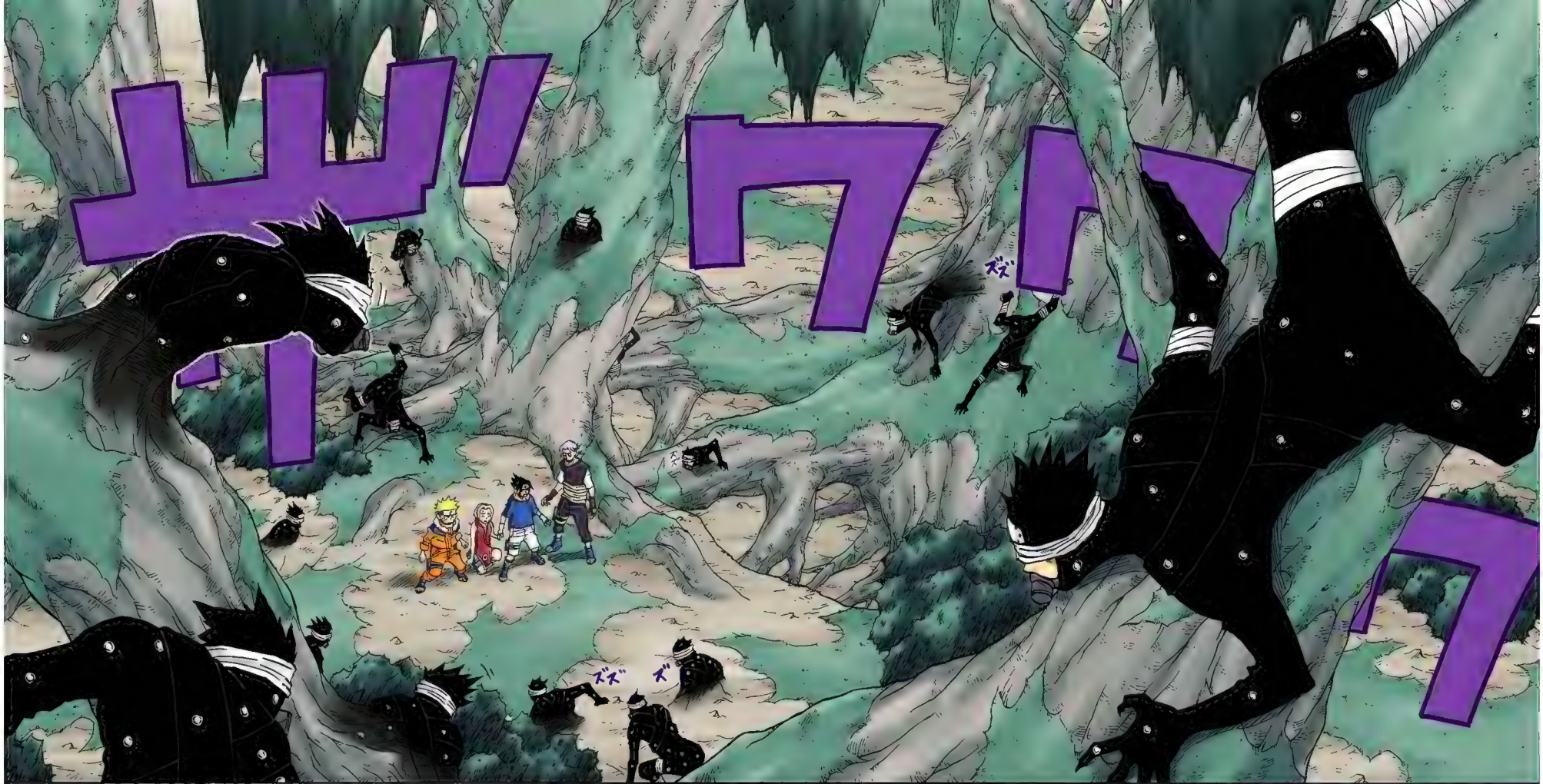
!!



LOOK!





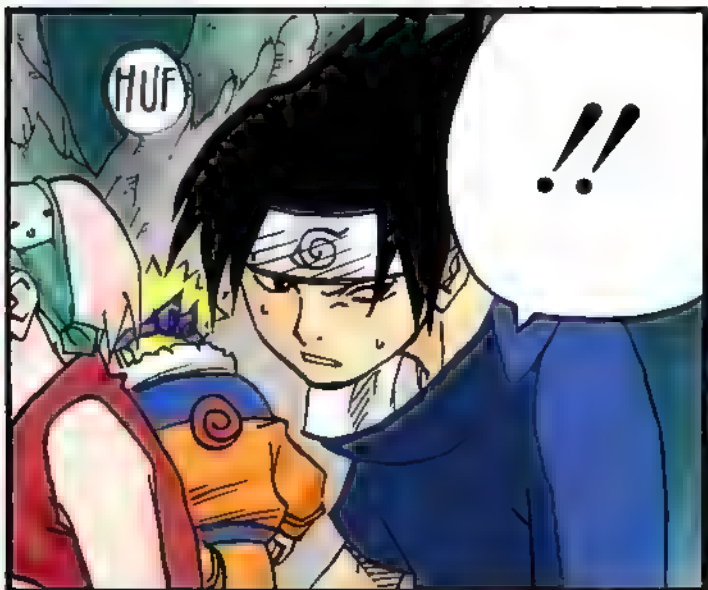


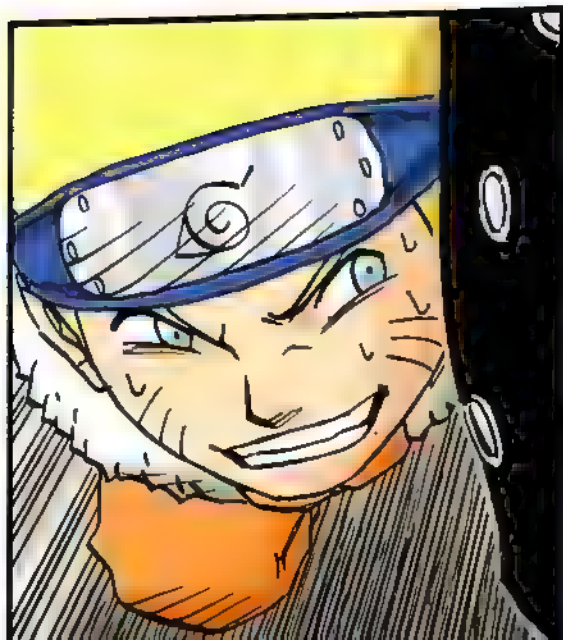
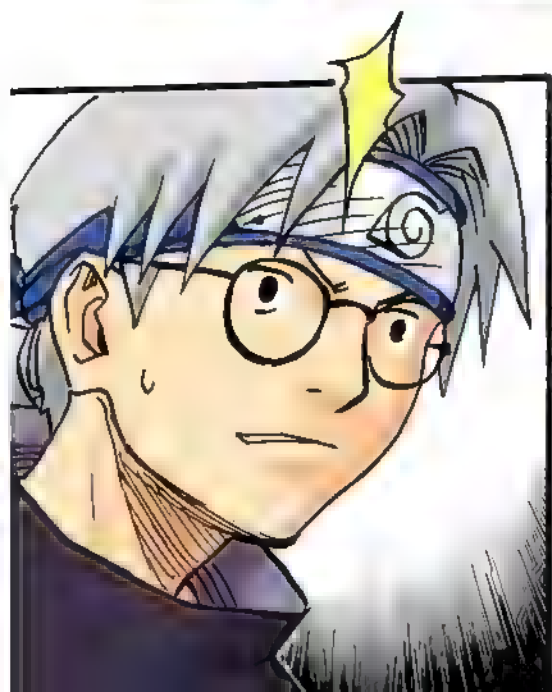
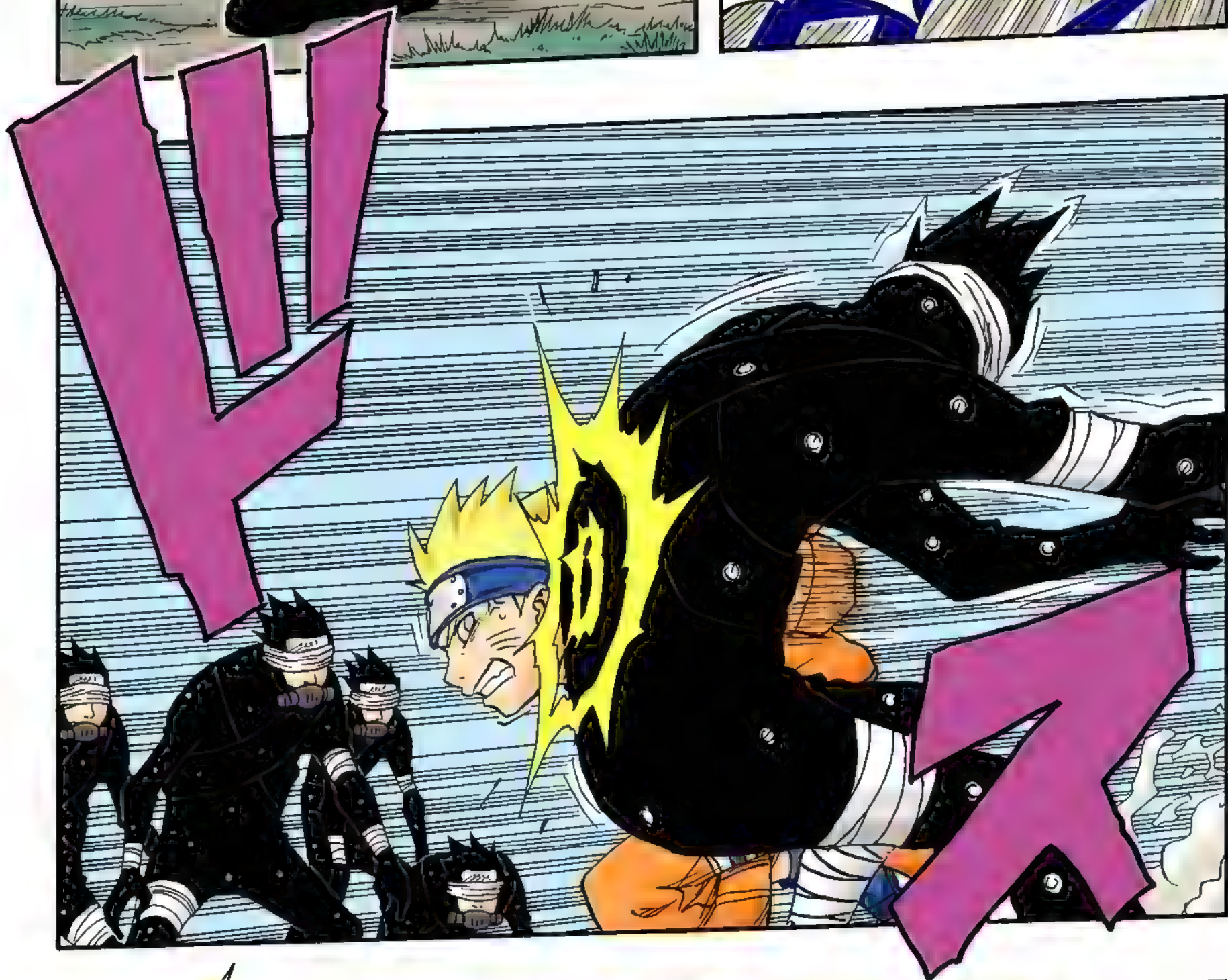
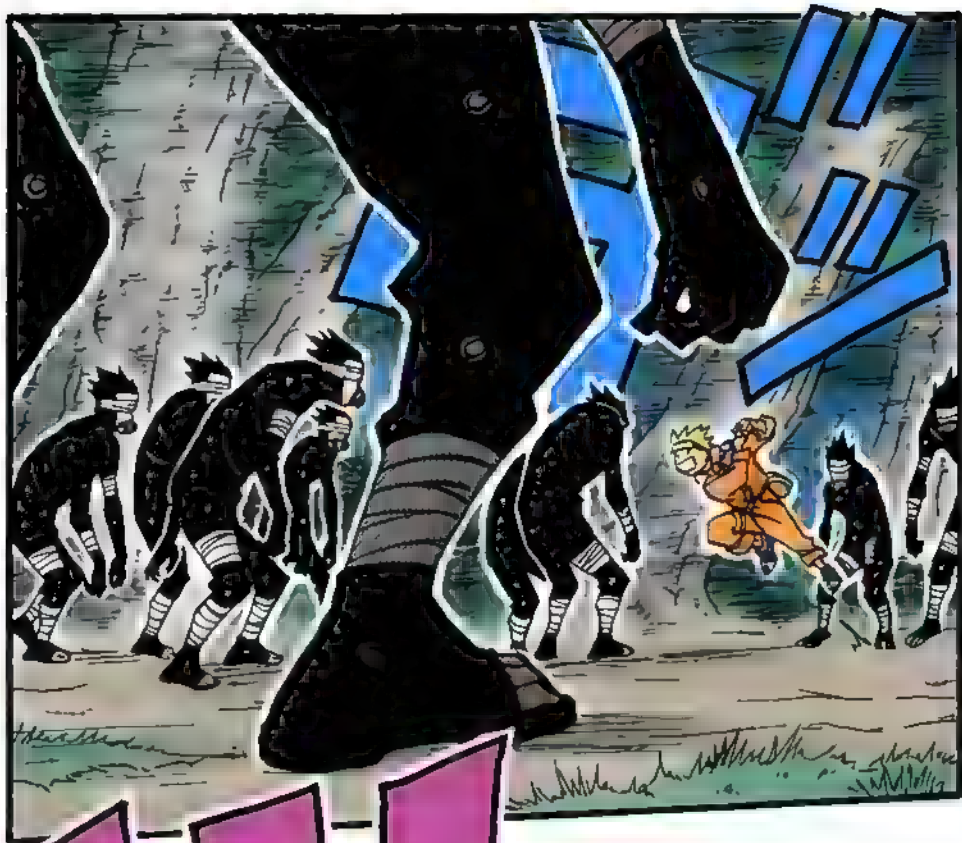


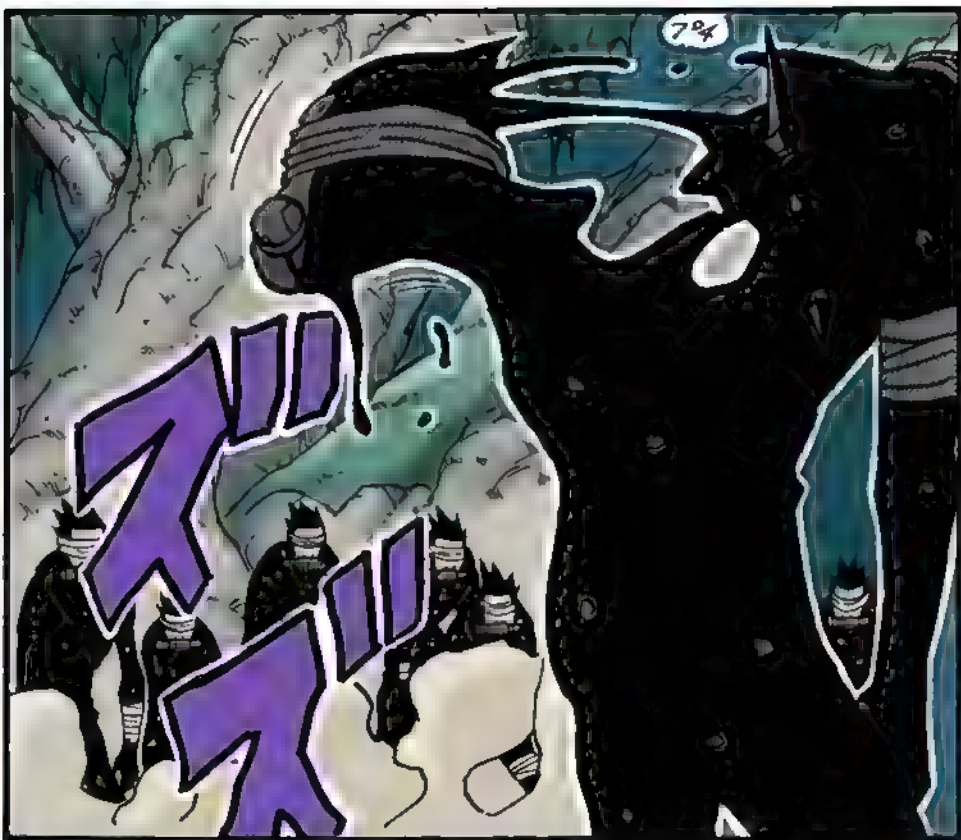
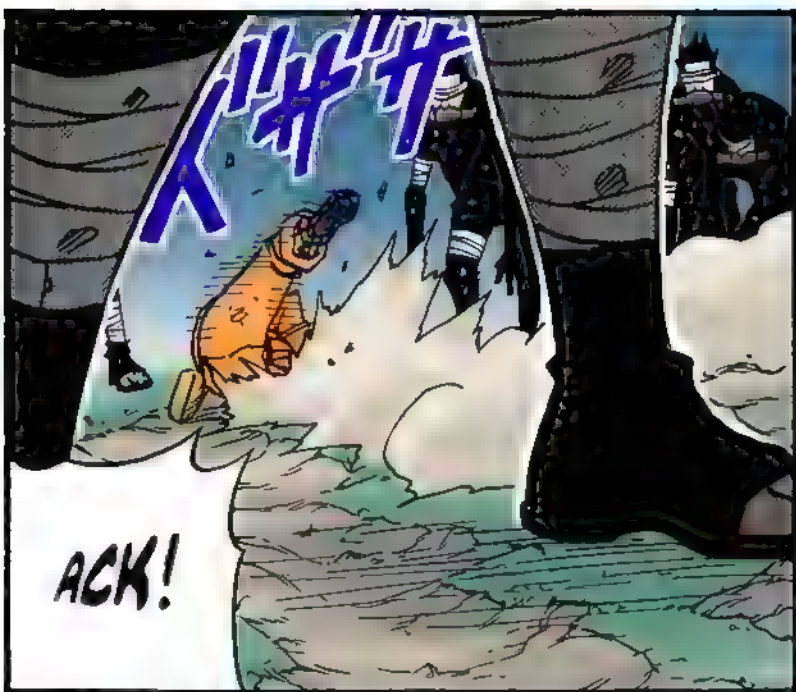
ナンバー

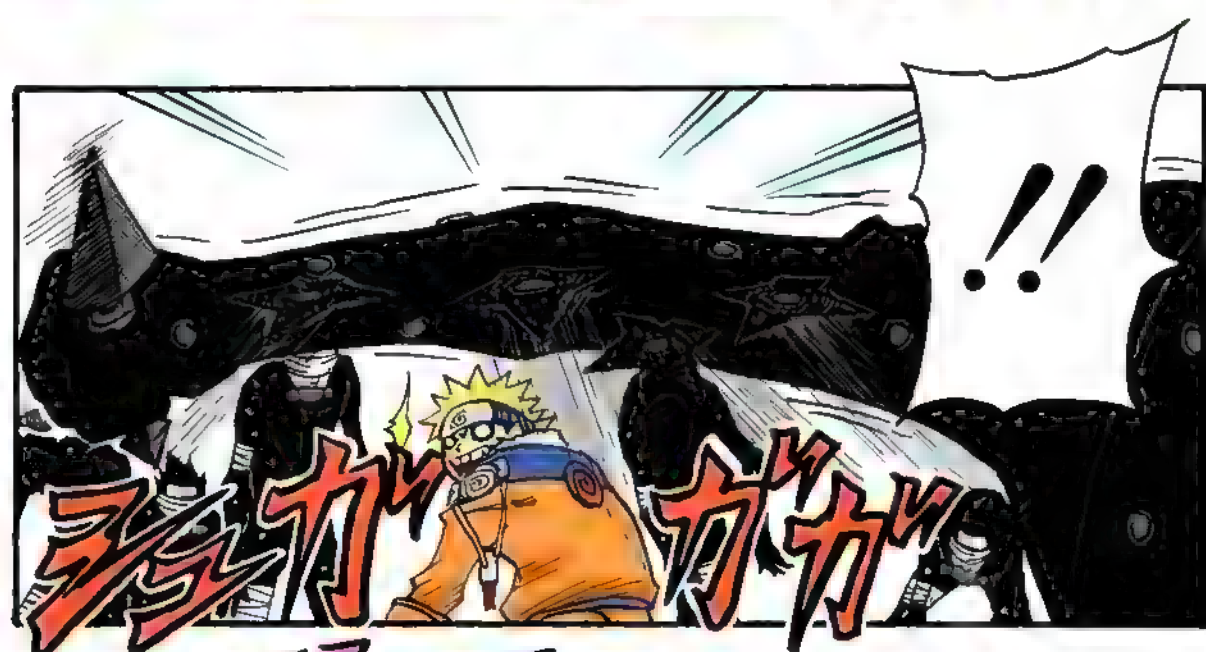
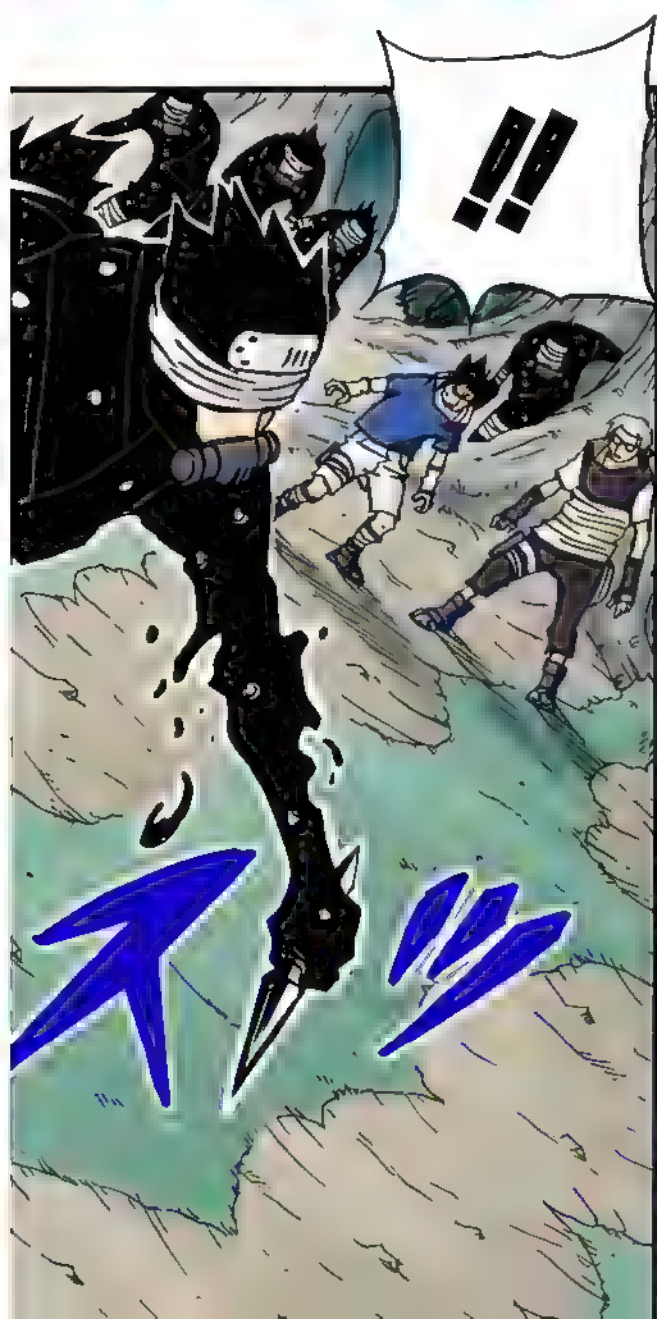
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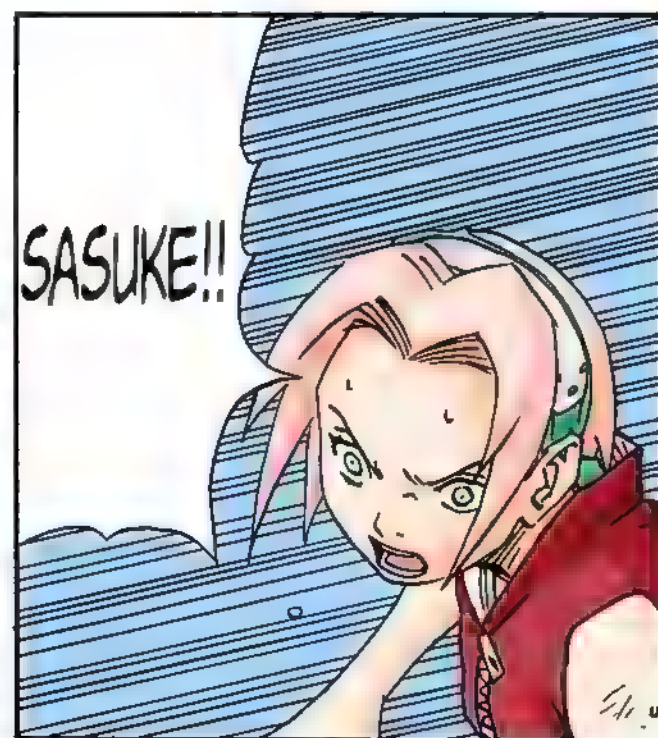
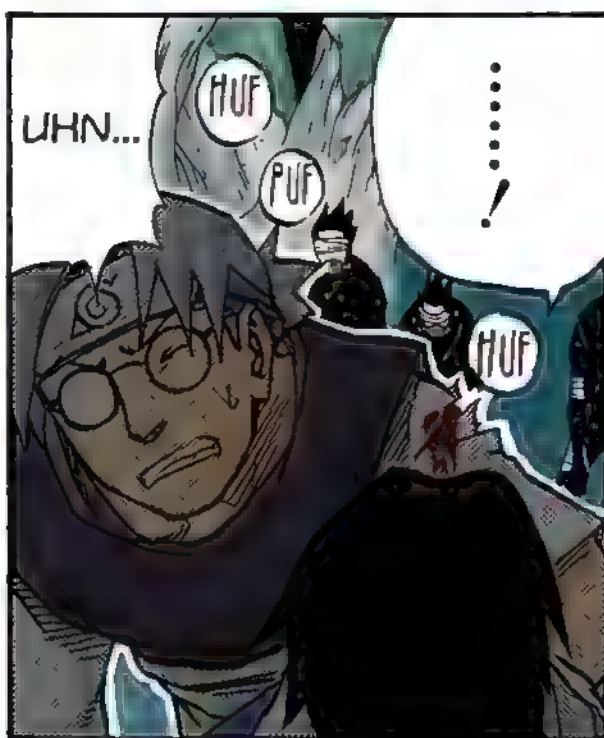
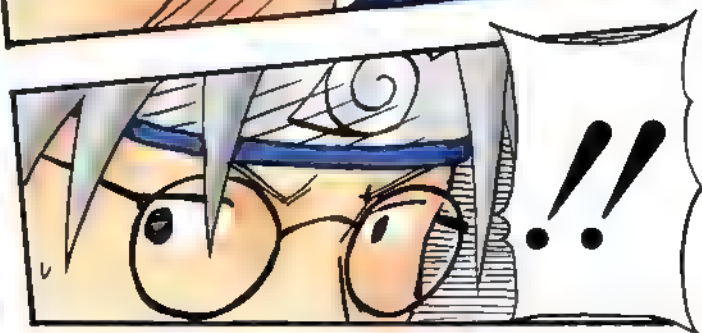
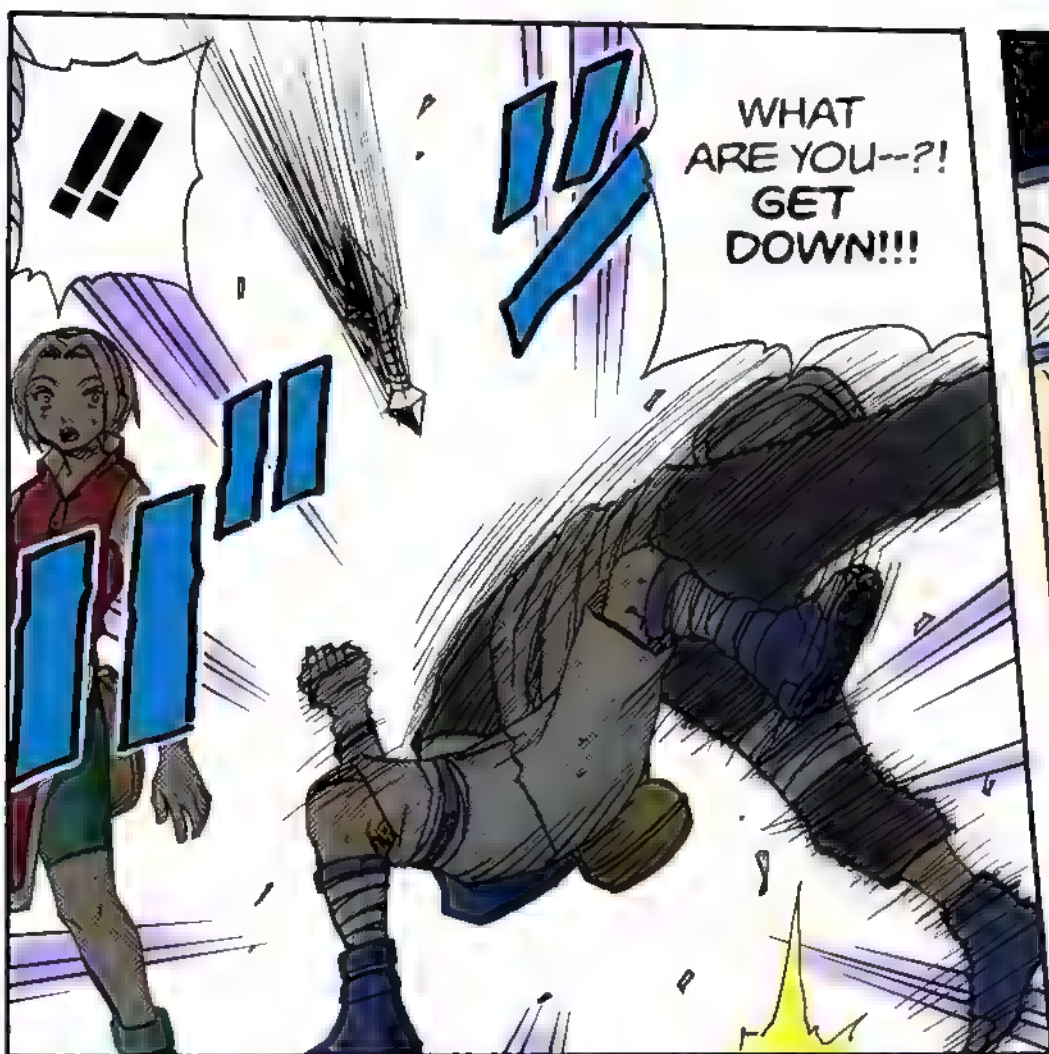
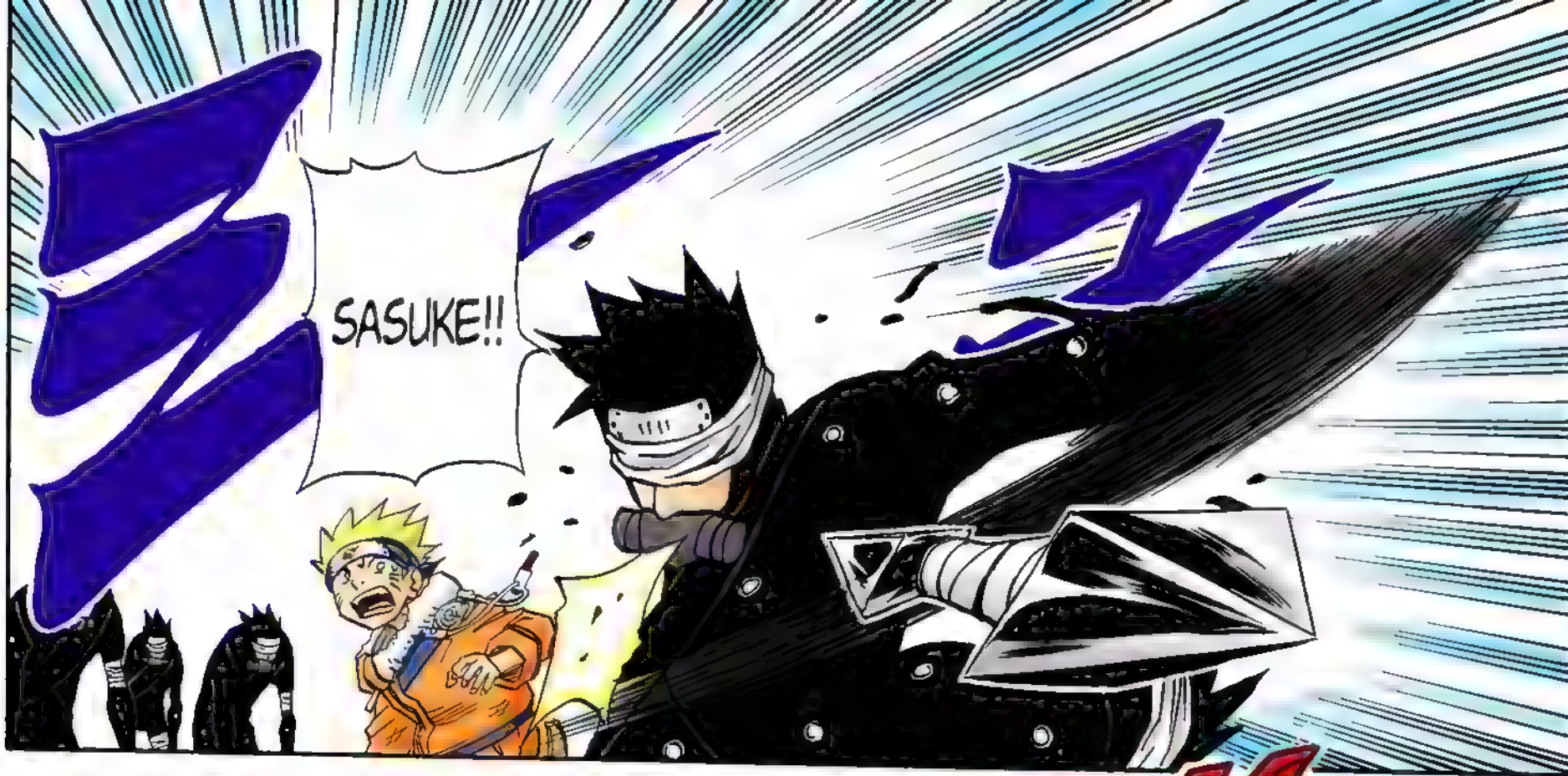
TRAPPED LIKE RATS!!

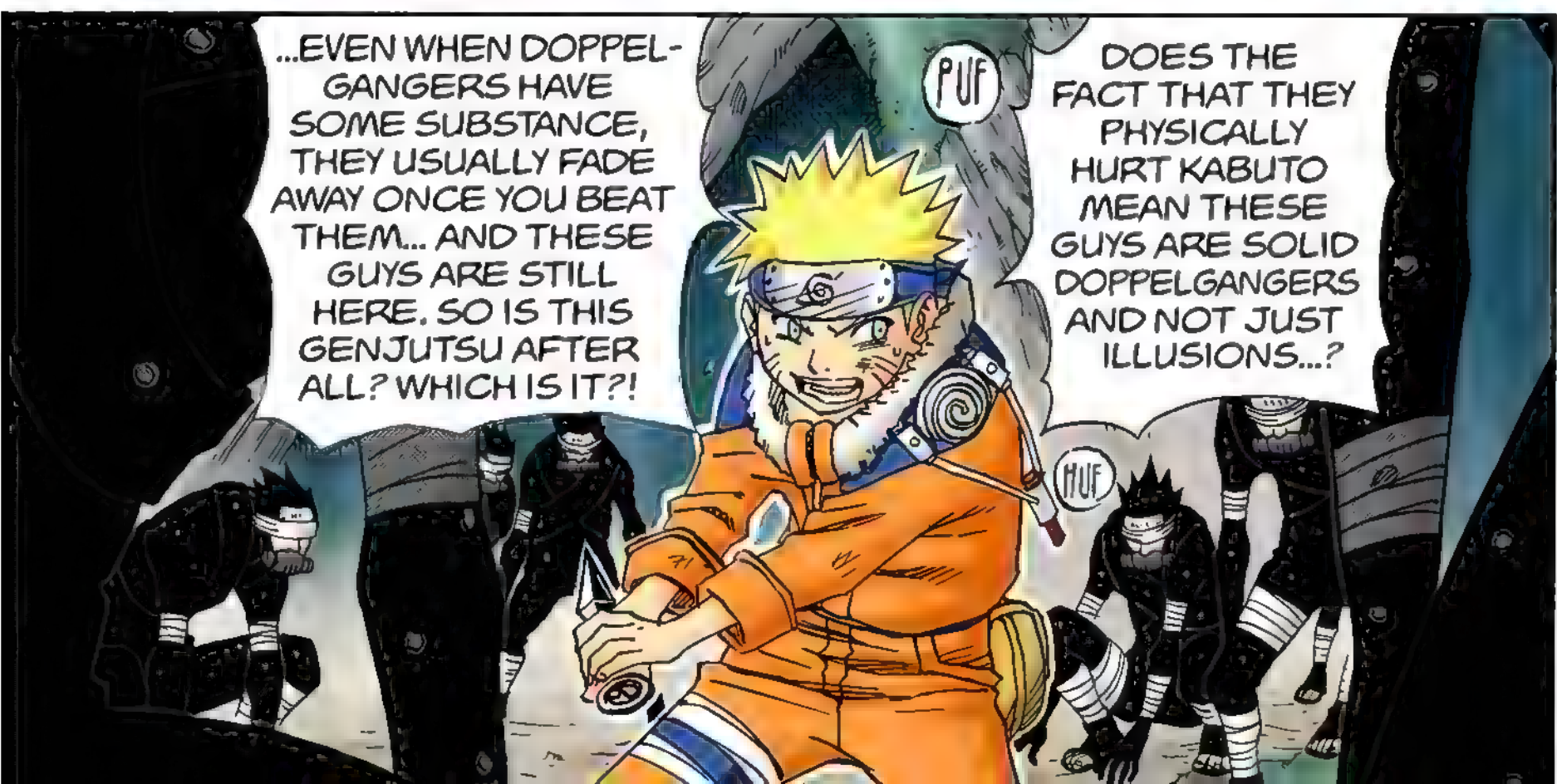
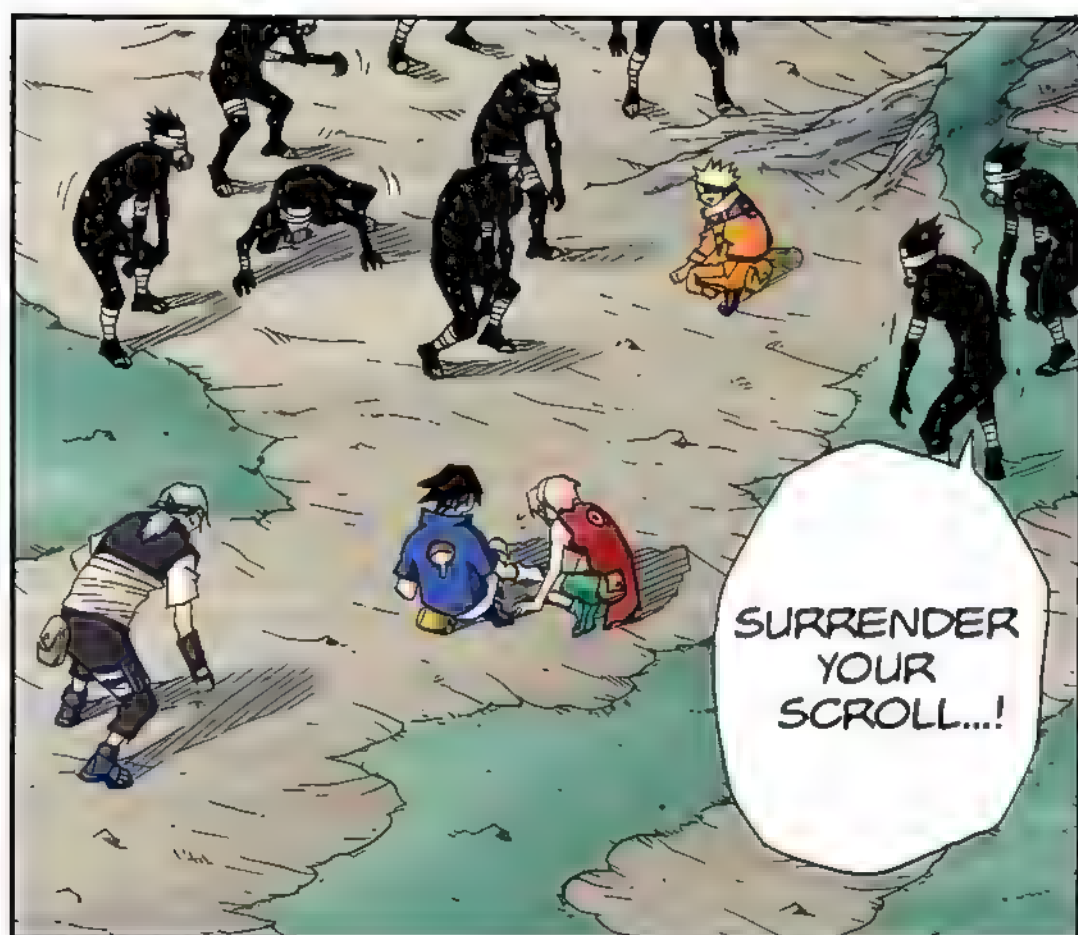
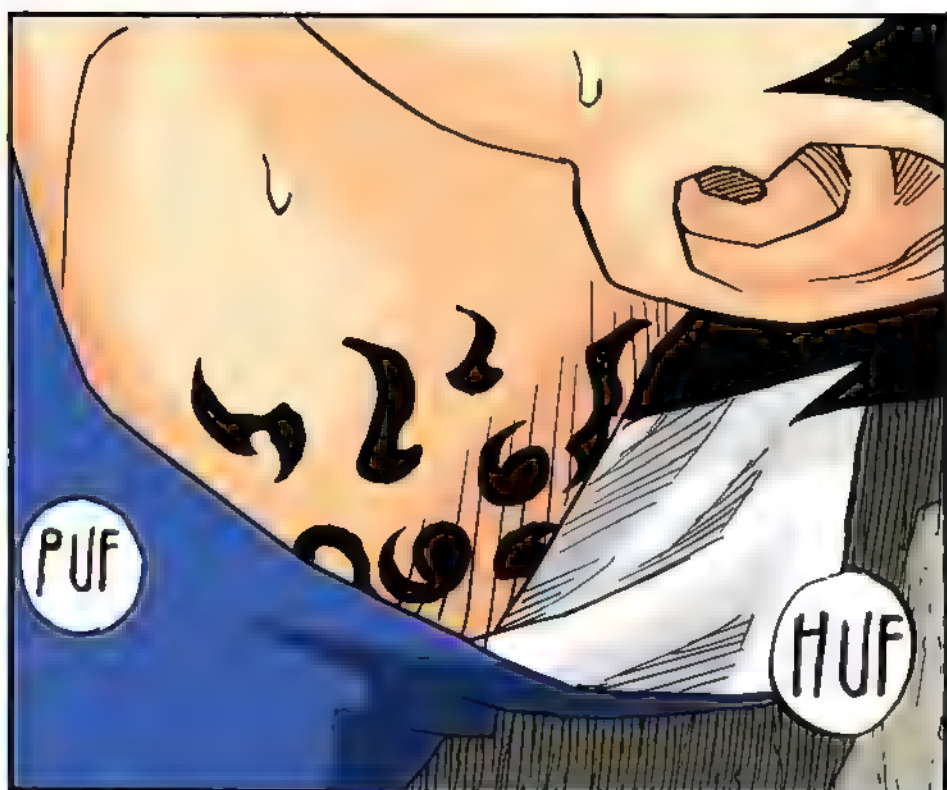


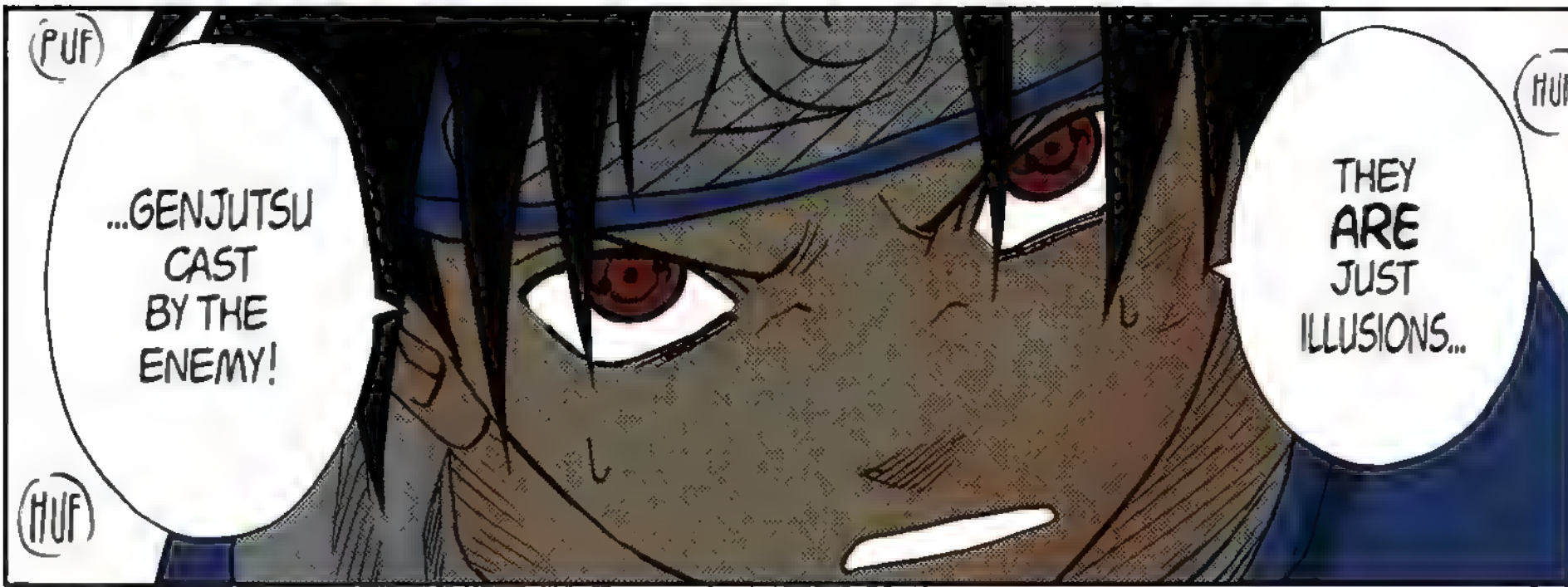
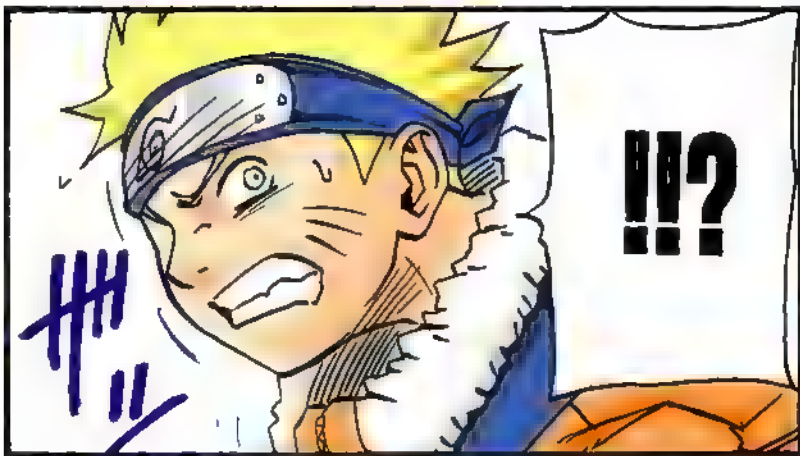


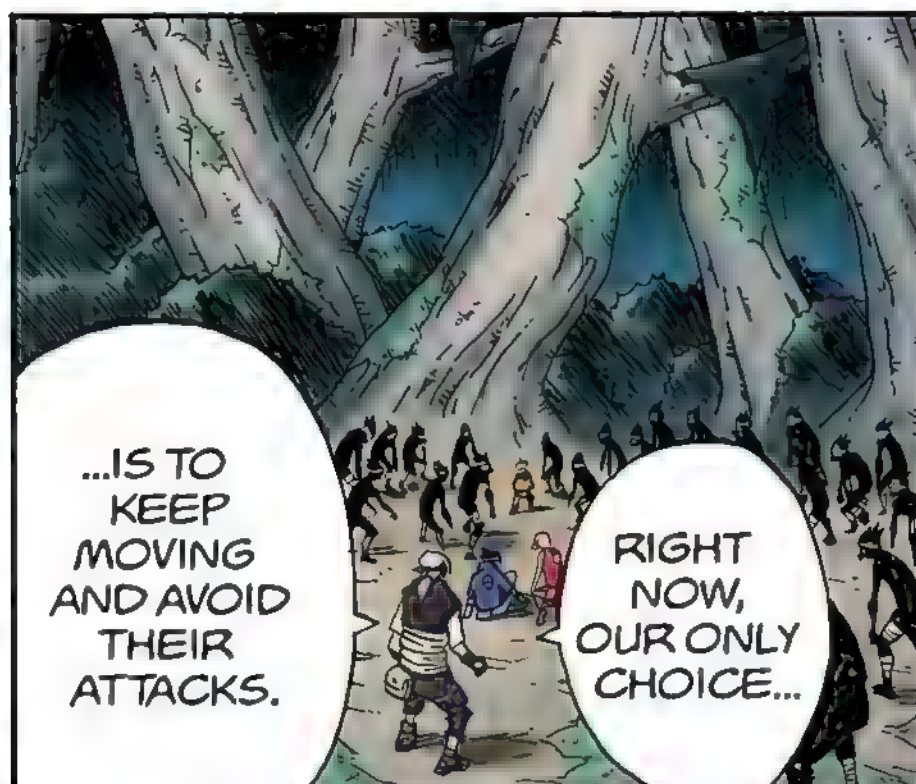


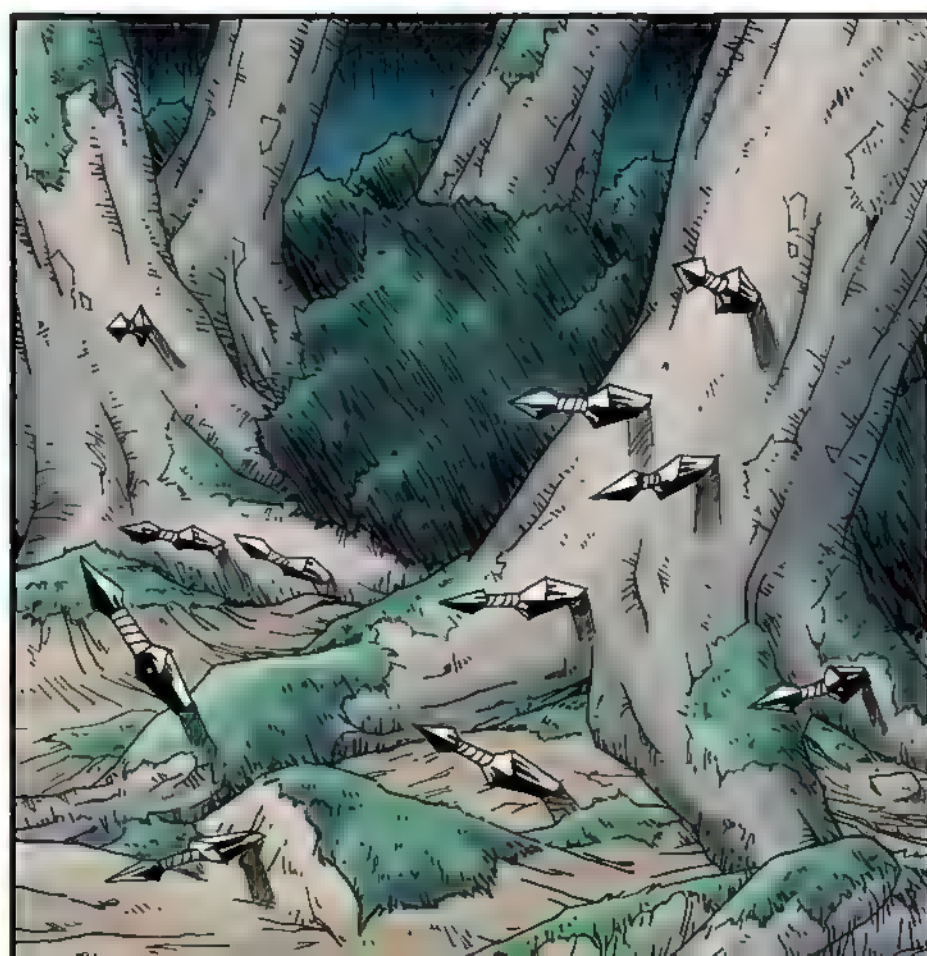
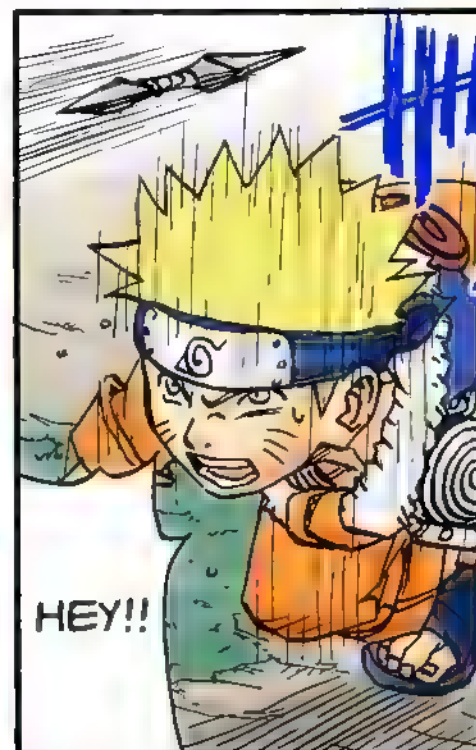
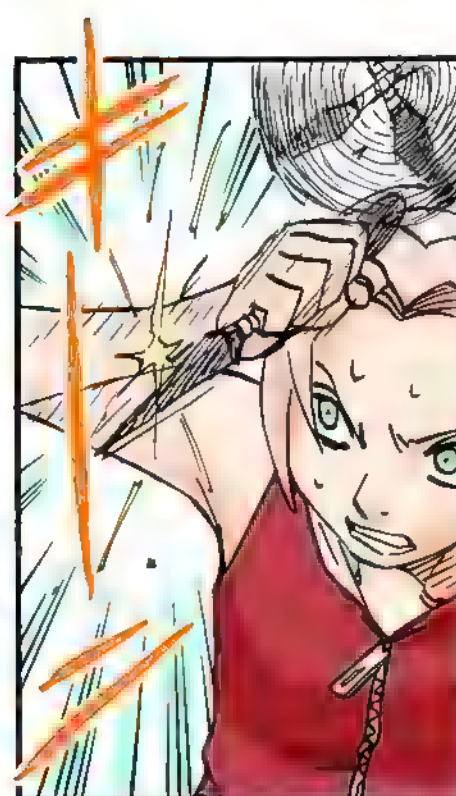














HOW
LONG
CAN
WE?!



OH!!
HOW LONG
CAN THEY
KEEP
THIS UP?!

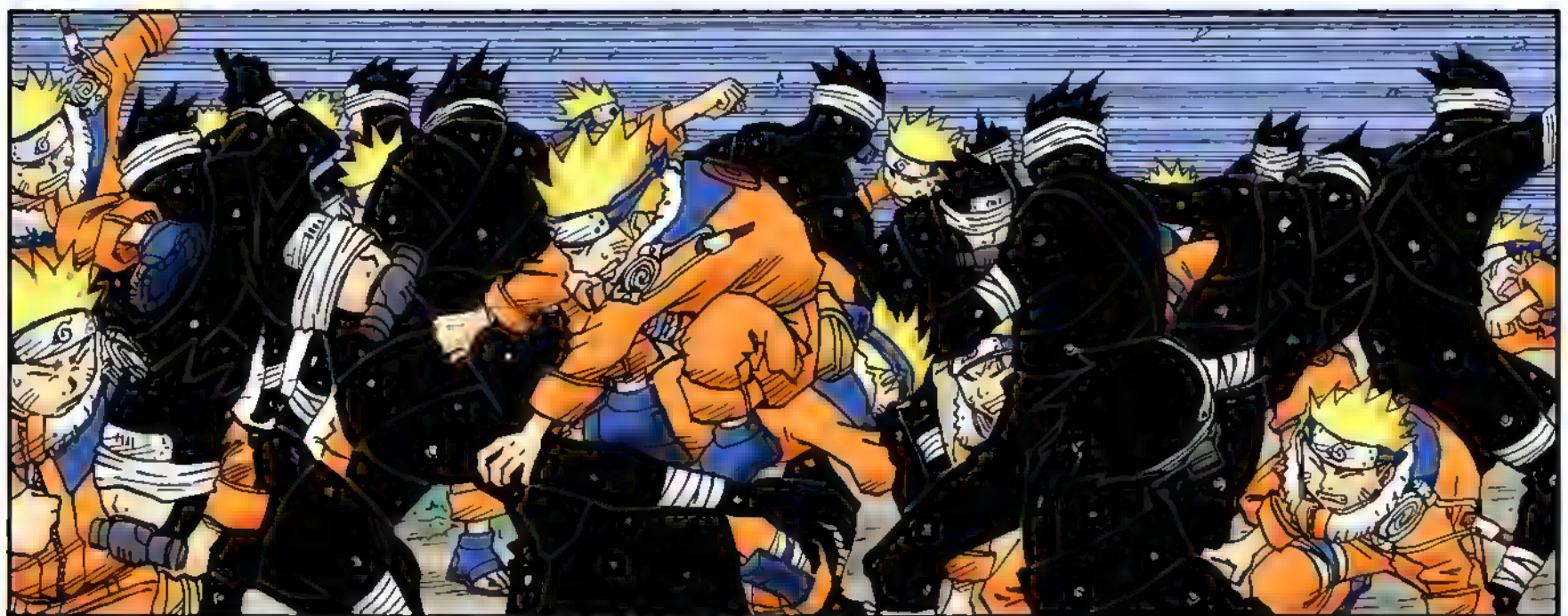
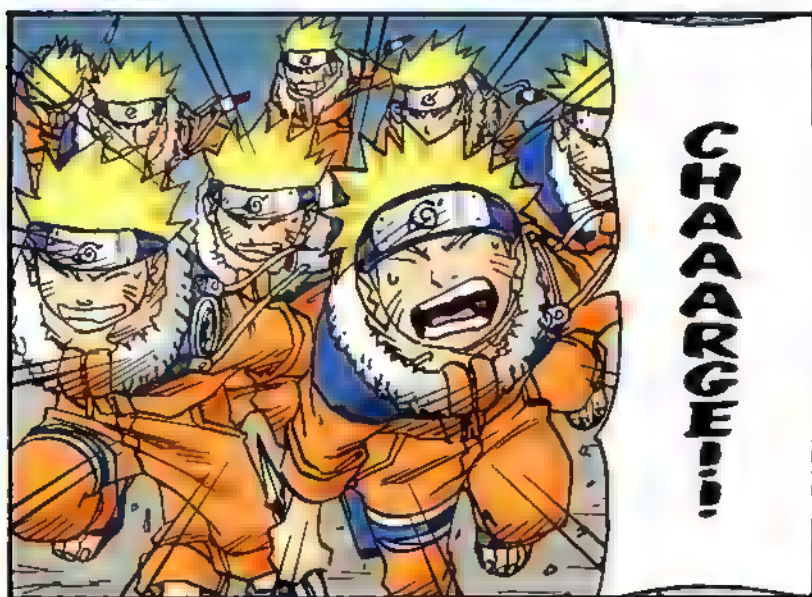


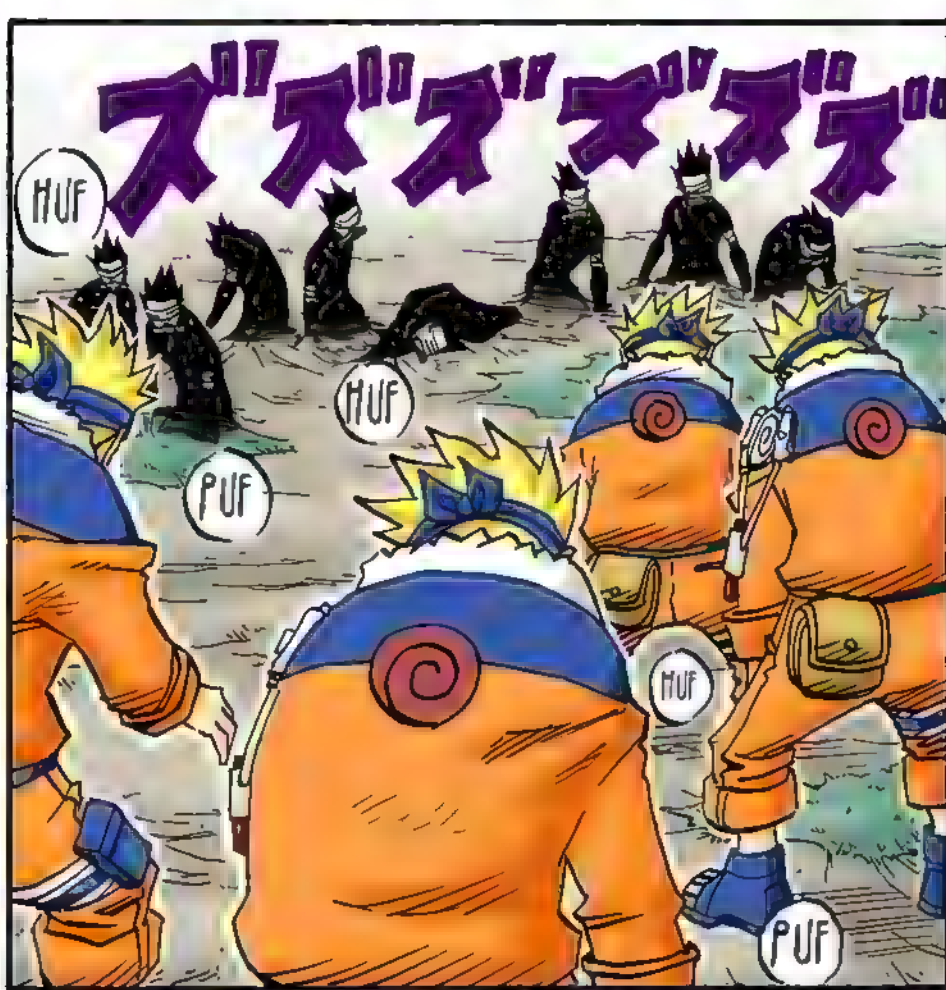
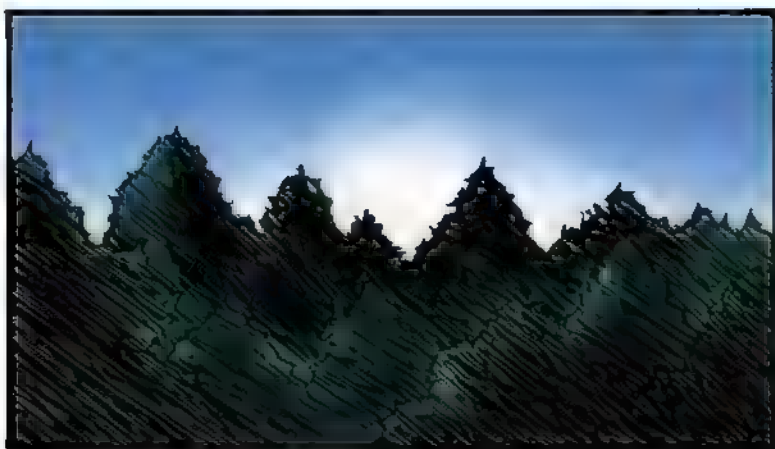
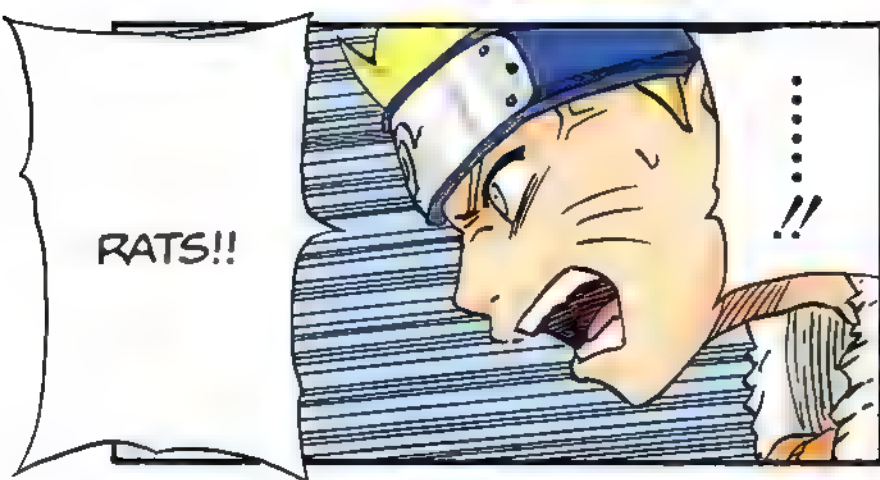
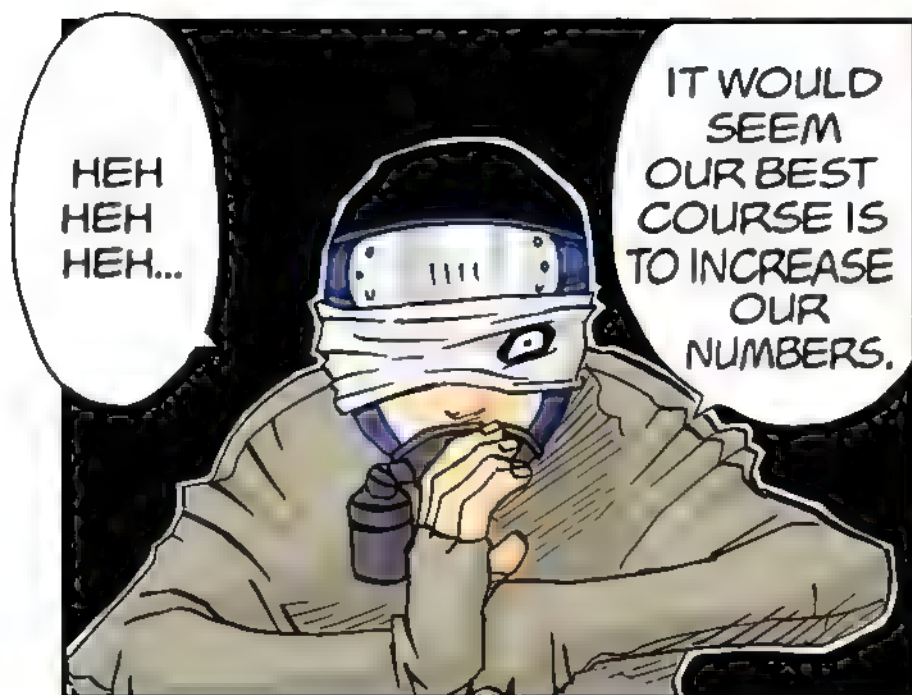
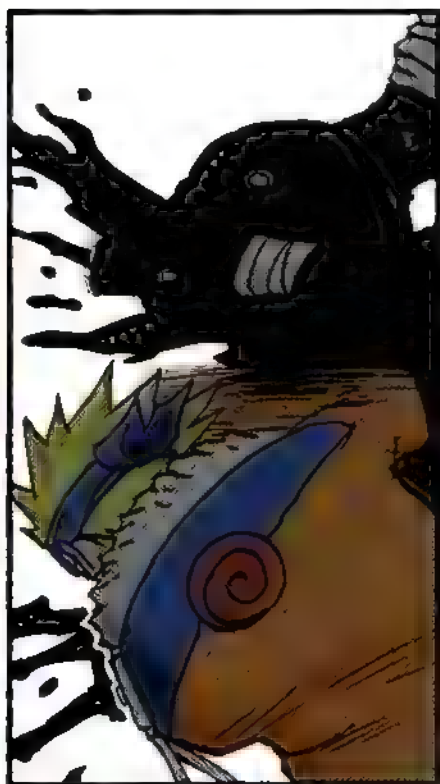
NARUTO,
NO!!
DON'T
SQUANDER
YOUR
CHAKRA!!

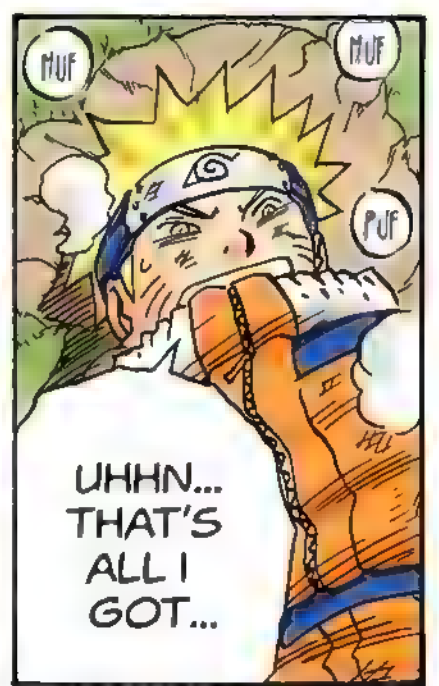
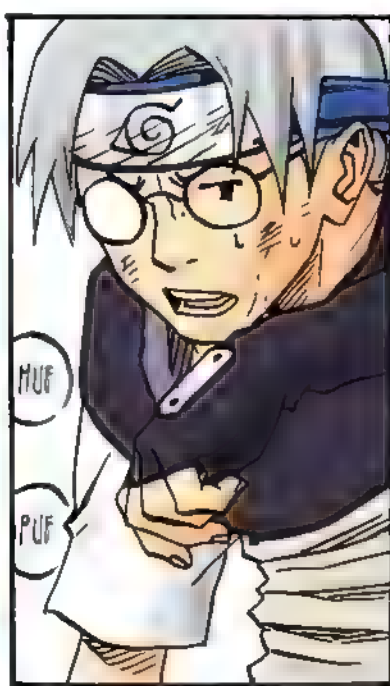
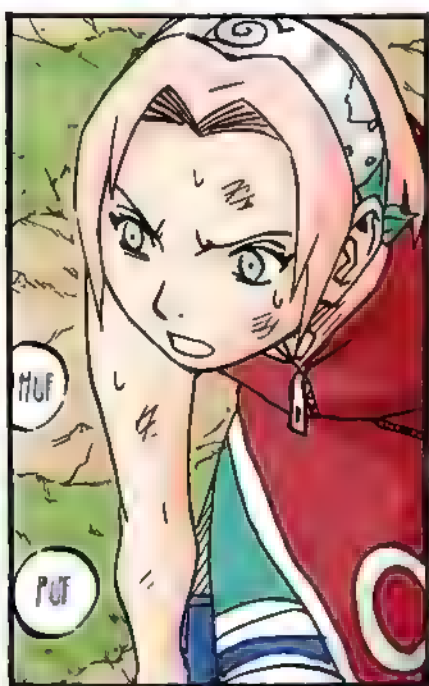
A
DIRECT
ATTACK
CAN'T HELP
US!

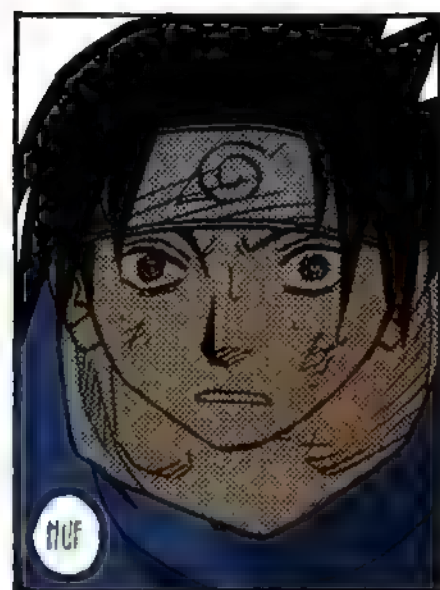
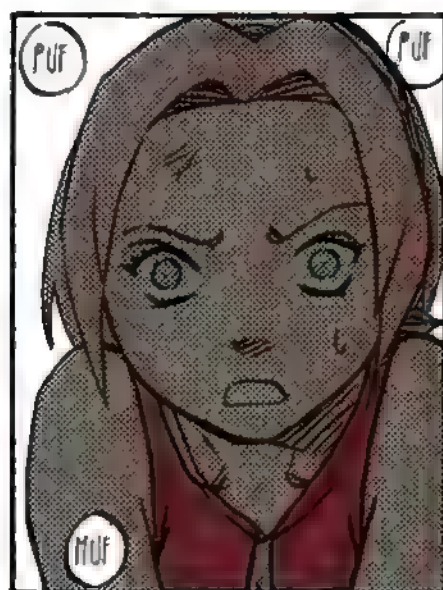
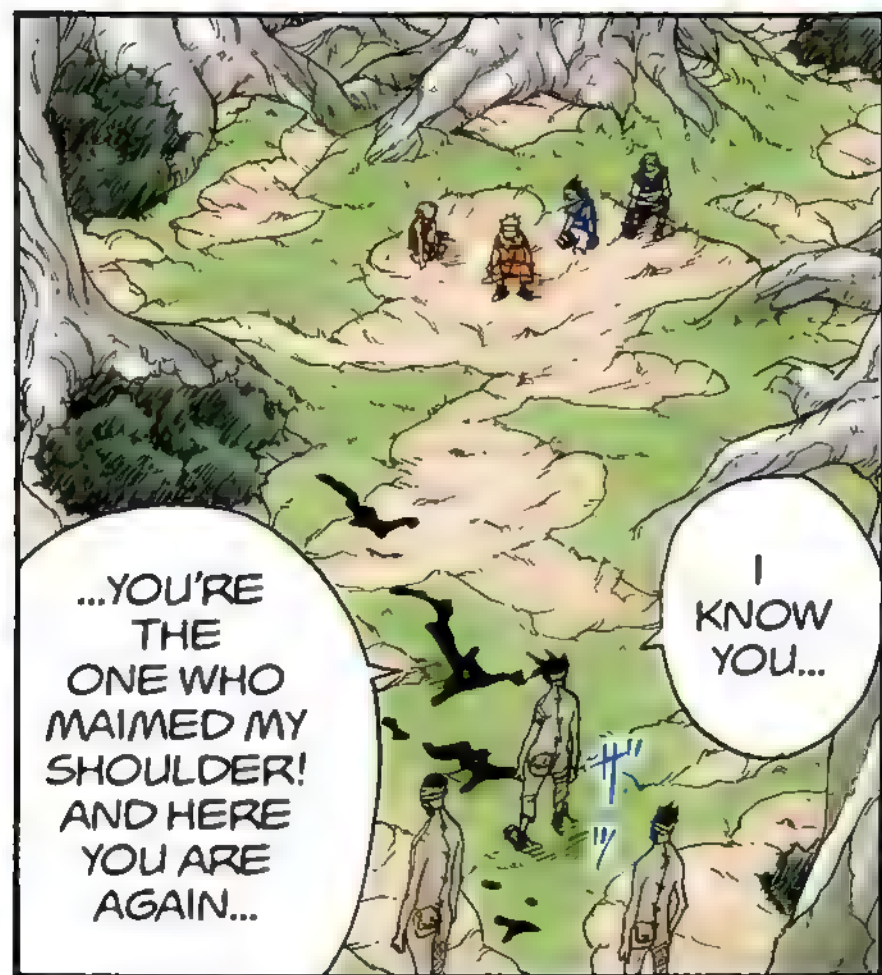
...WOULDN'T
BE ABLE
TO JUST
HURL
KNIVES
AT US
WITHOUT
US SEEING
WHERE
THEY'RE
HIDING!

IF WE
WERE TO
DISSIPATE
ALL OF
THE
ILLUSIONS
SIMULTANEOUSLY,
WHOEVER'S
CASTING
THEM...











!!?

NICE
WORK,
NARUTO!

NOW
WHO'S
THE
TRAPPED
RAT?



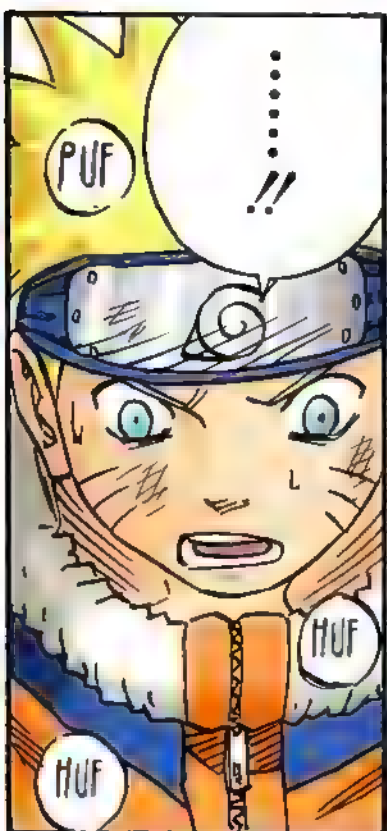
HEY GUYS...
YOU'RE
SHOWING
YOUR TAILS...
JUST LIKE
THE DIRTY,
DOUBLE-
CROSSING
DEMON-
CRITTERS
YOU ARE!

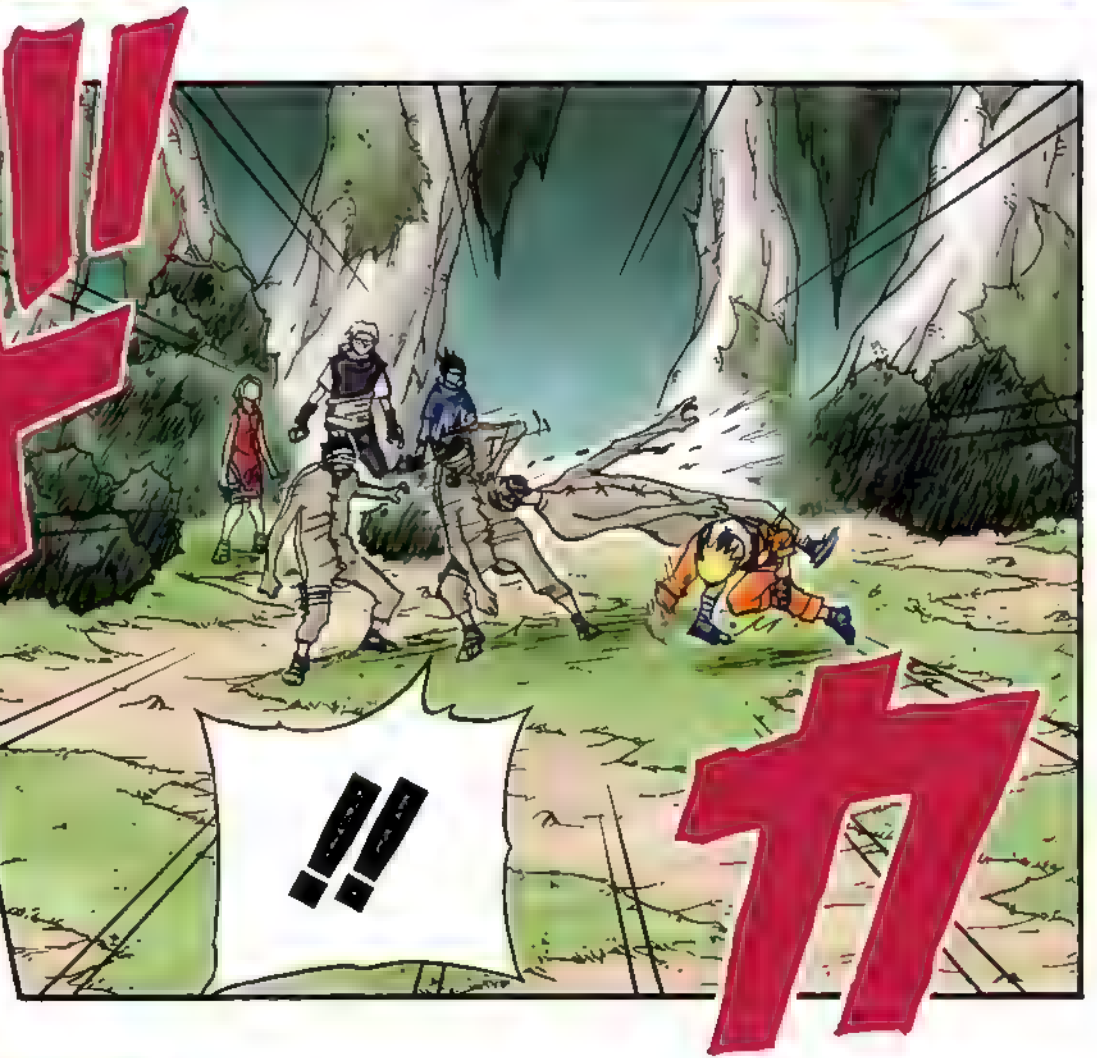
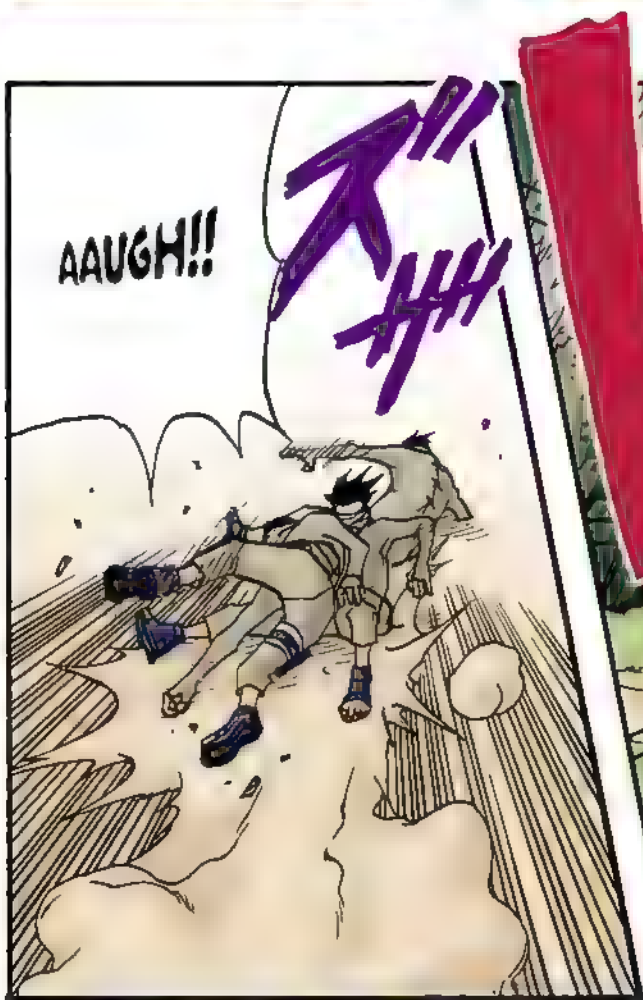
SUCKERS!!



WHEN...?
HOW DID
THEY...?!

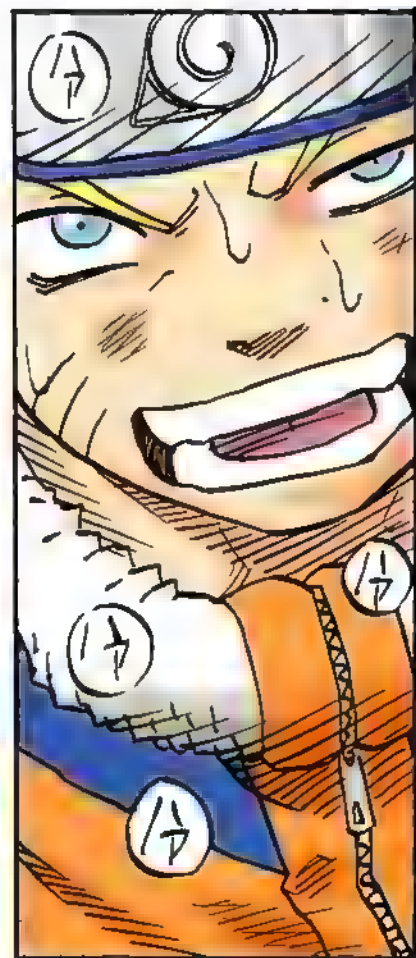
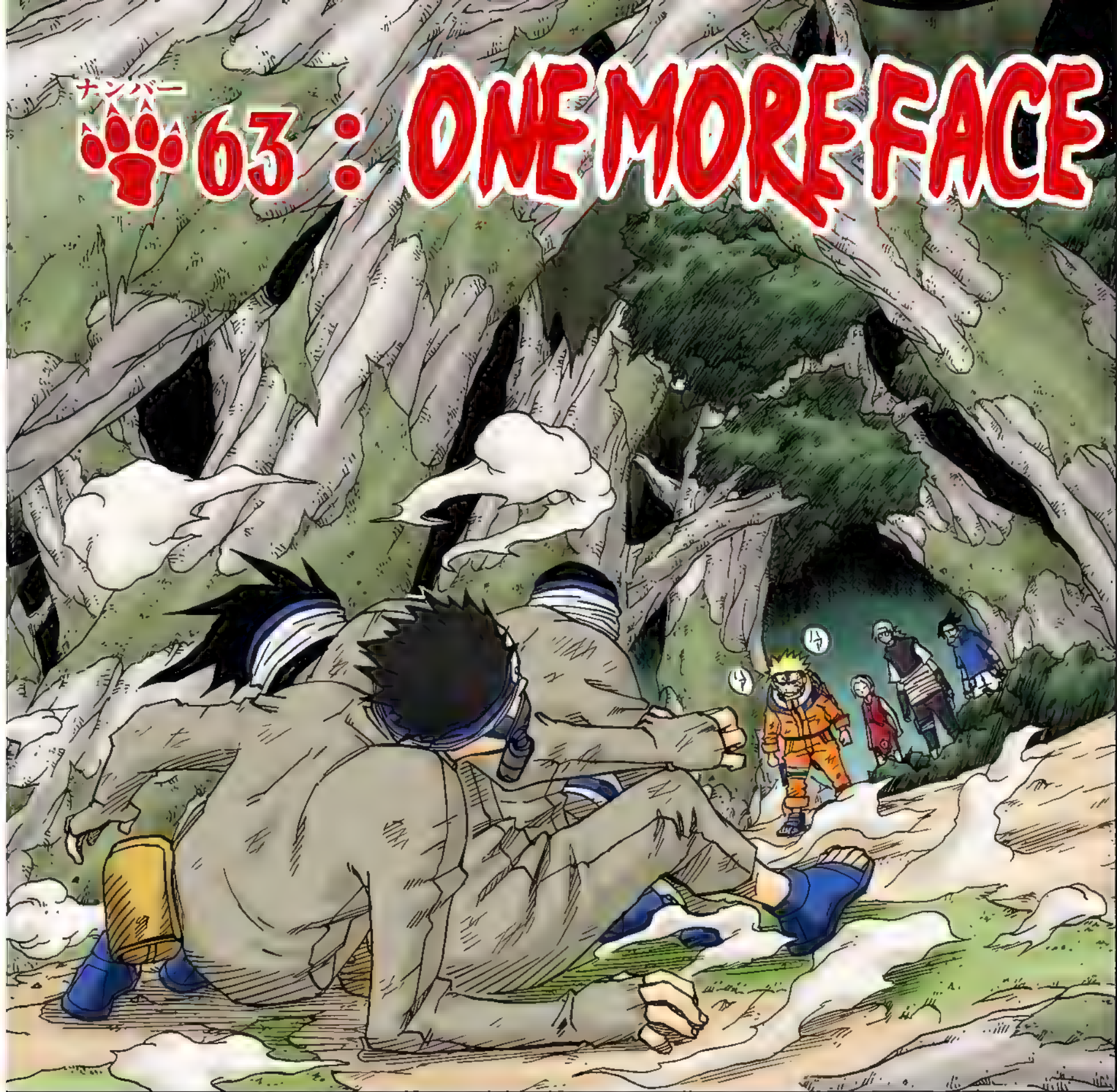
WH-WHAT
THE--?!
N-NO
WAY!

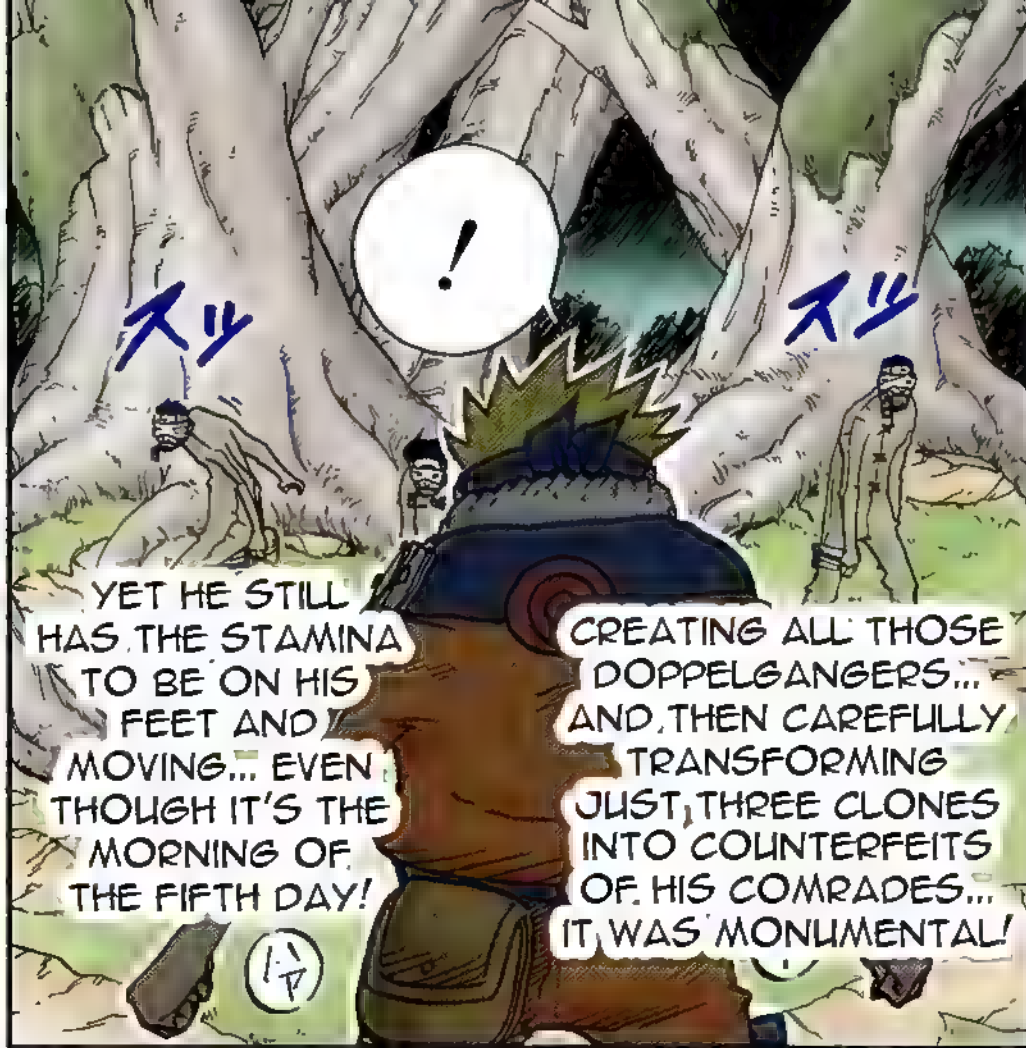






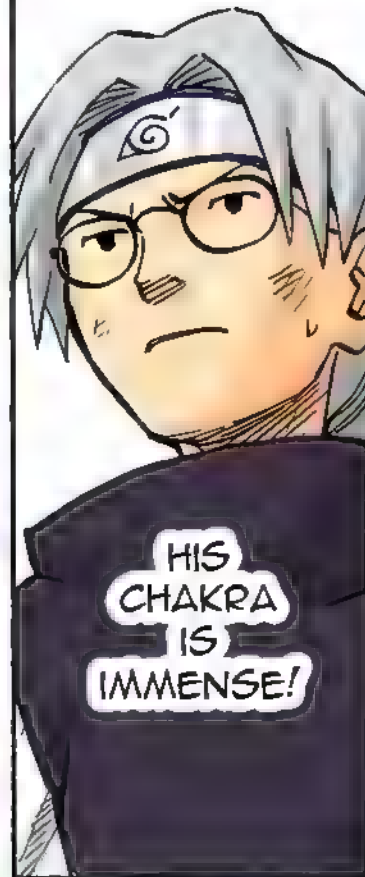
63 : ONE MORE FACE



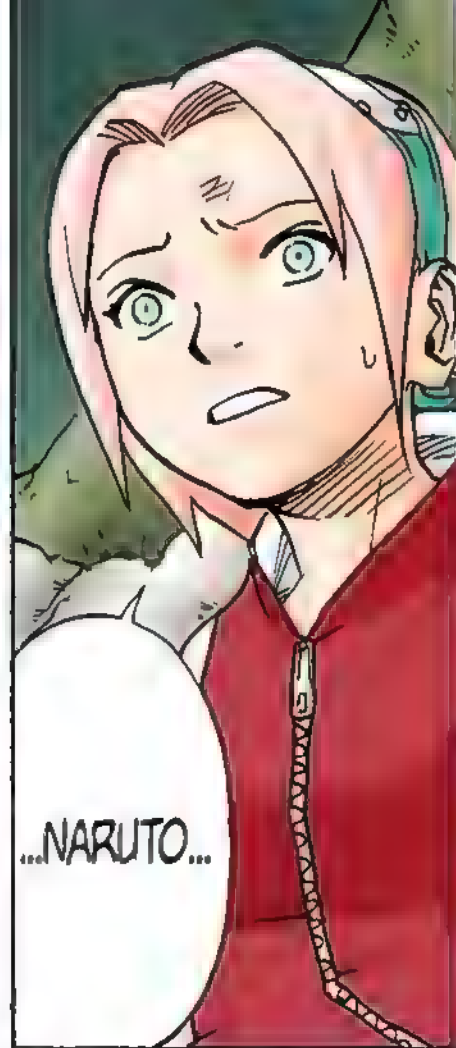


YET HE STILL HAS THE STAMINA TO BE ON HIS FEET AND MOVING... EVEN THOUGH IT'S THE MORNING OF THE FIFTH DAY!

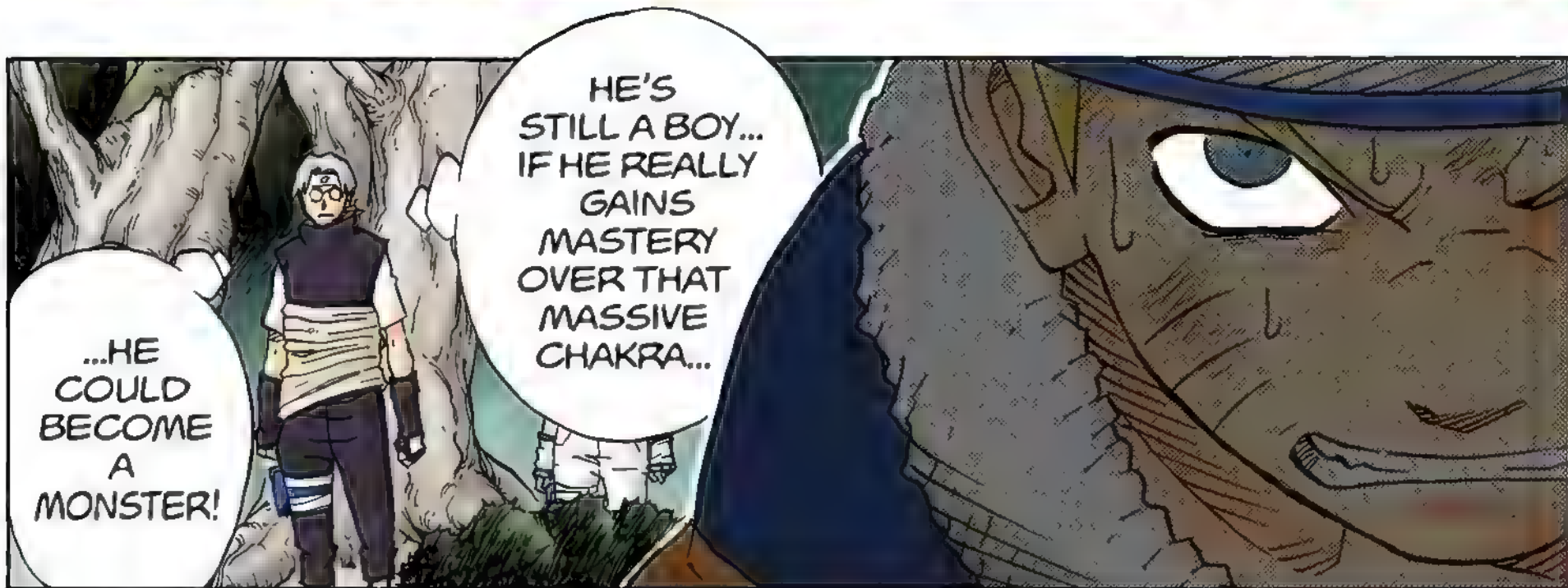
CREATING ALL THOSE DOPPELGANGERS... AND THEN CAREFULLY TRANSFORMING JUST THREE CLONES INTO COUNTERFEITS OF HIS COMRADES... IT WAS MONUMENTAL!



HIS CHAKRA IS IMMENSE!



...NARUTO...



...HE COULD BECOME A MONSTER!

HE'S STILL A BOY... IF HE REALLY GAINS MASTERY OVER THAT MASSIVE CHAKRA...



SO WE'RE GOING TO DEMONSTRATE OUR OWN NINJA SKILLS!!

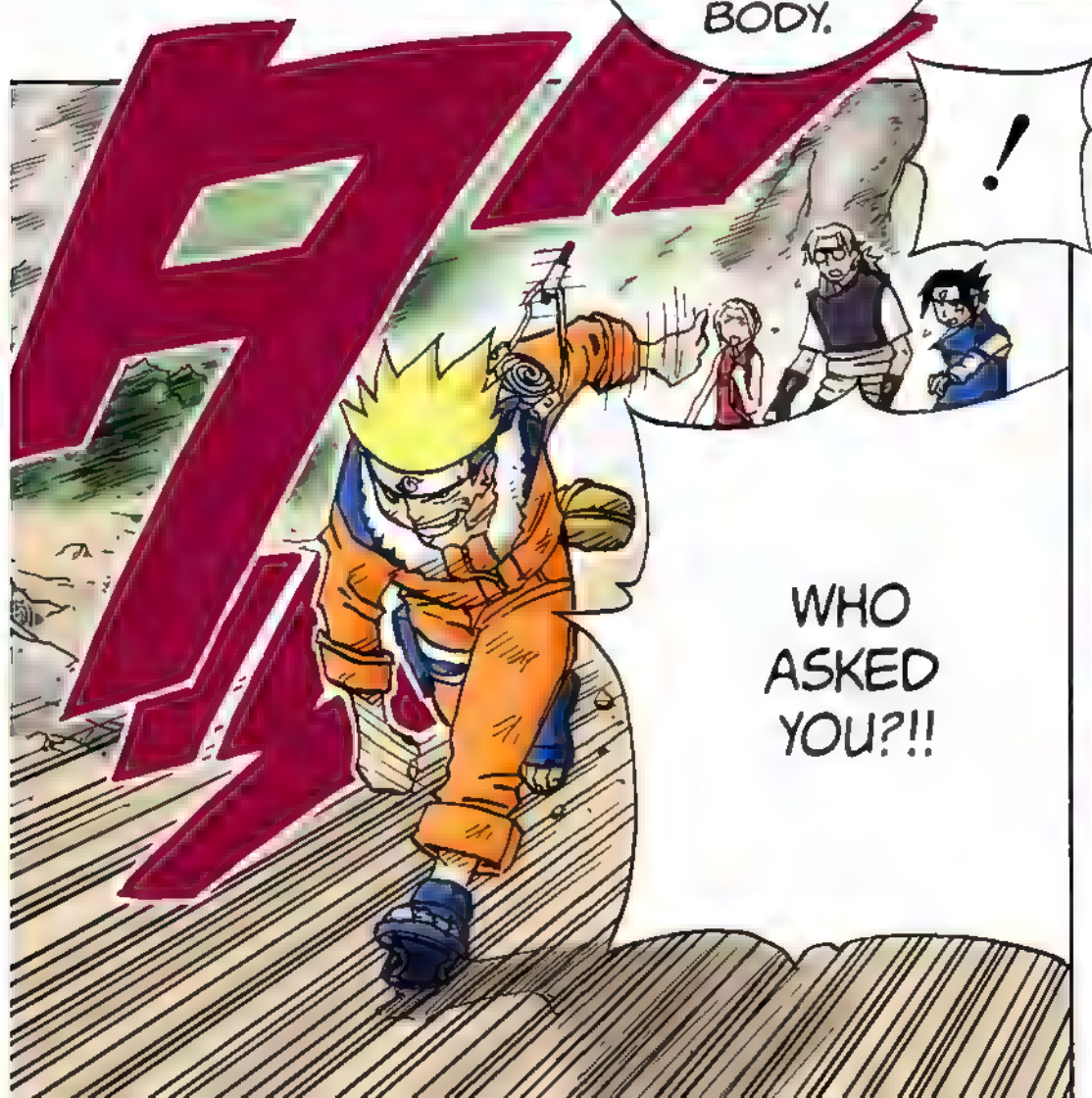


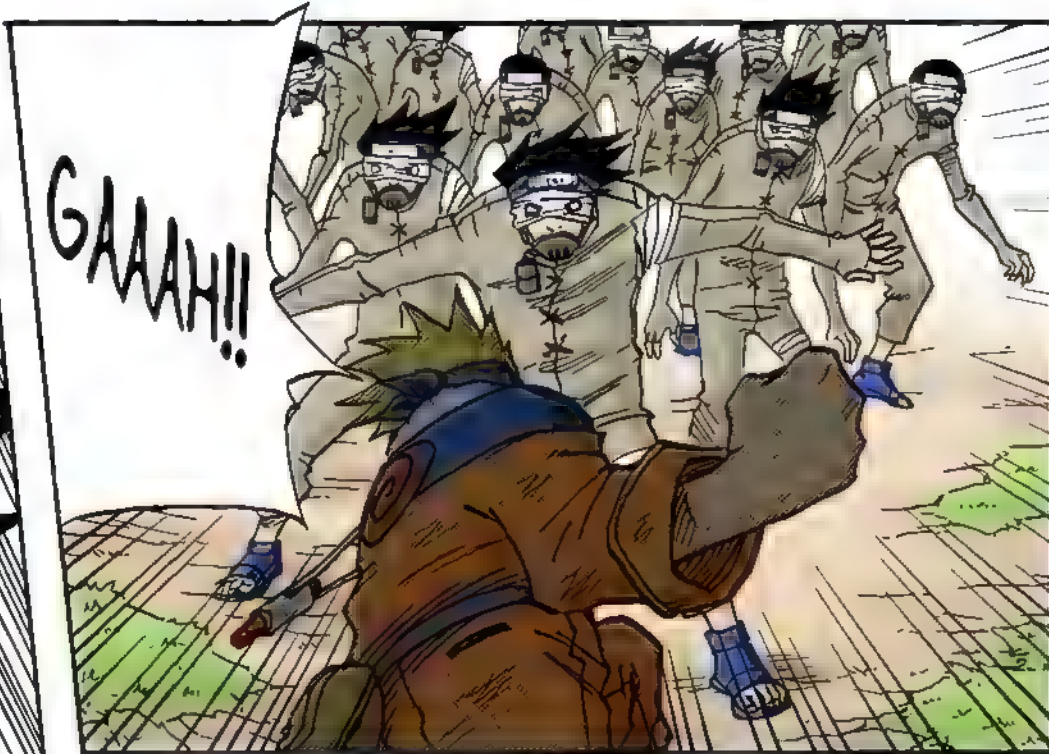
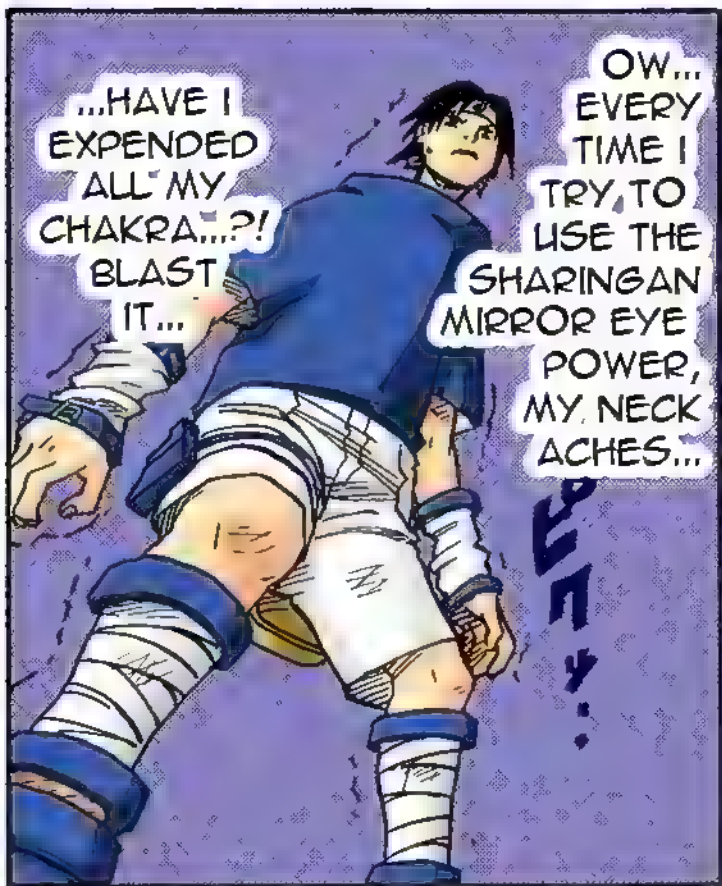
BUT WE'RE ALMOST OUT OF TIME!

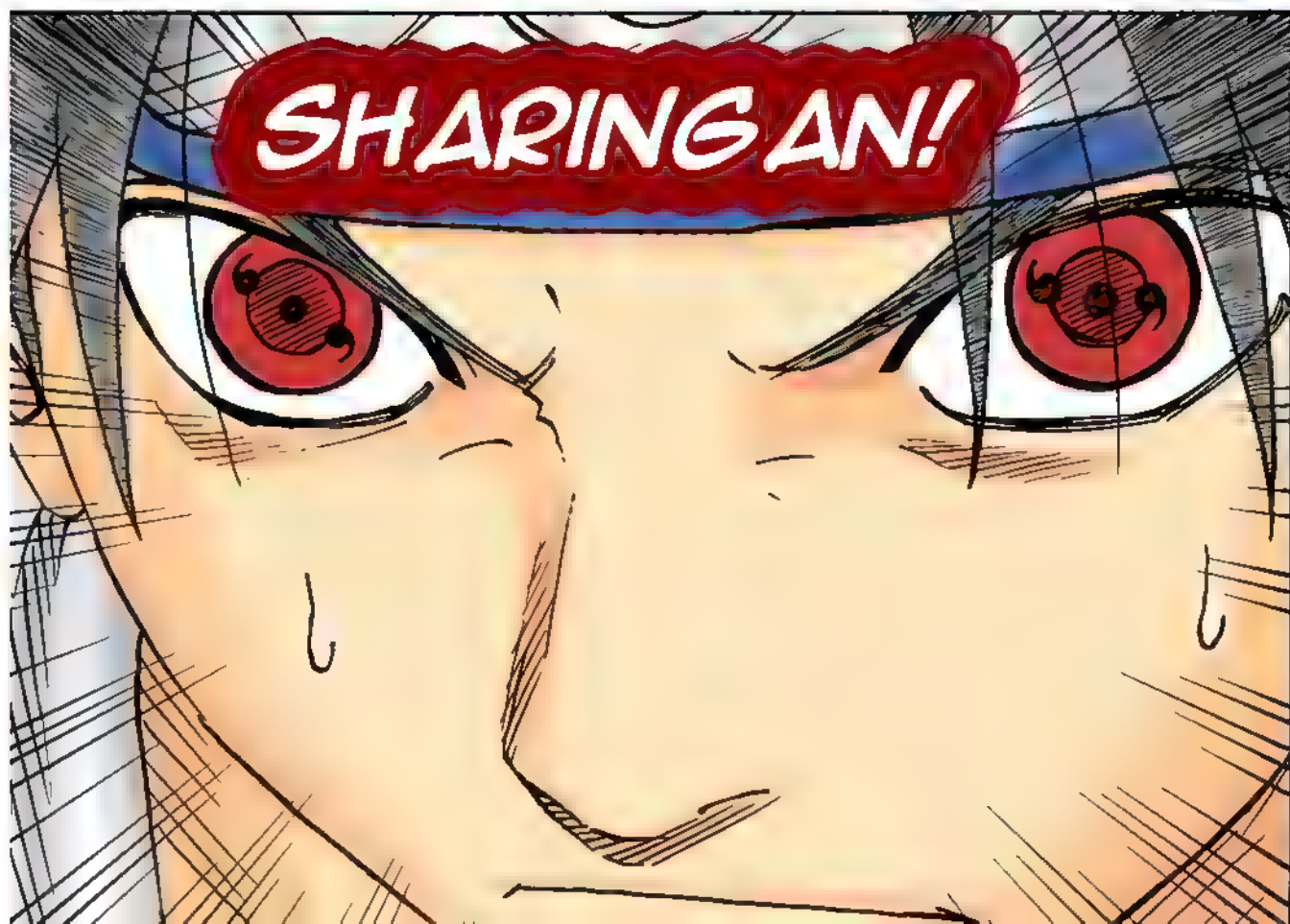
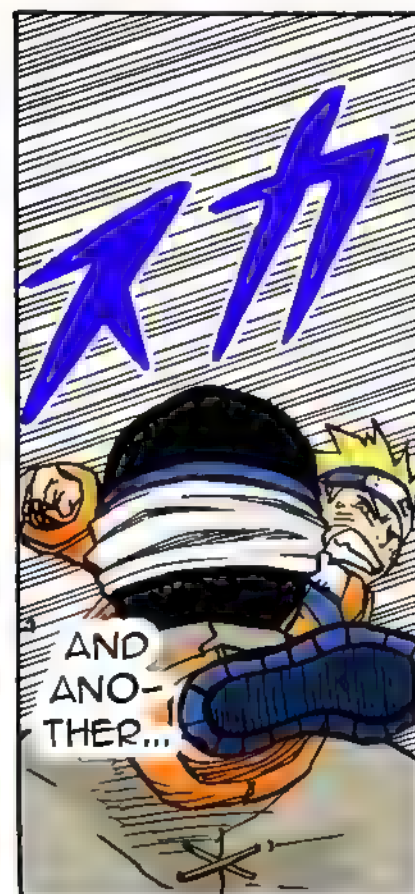
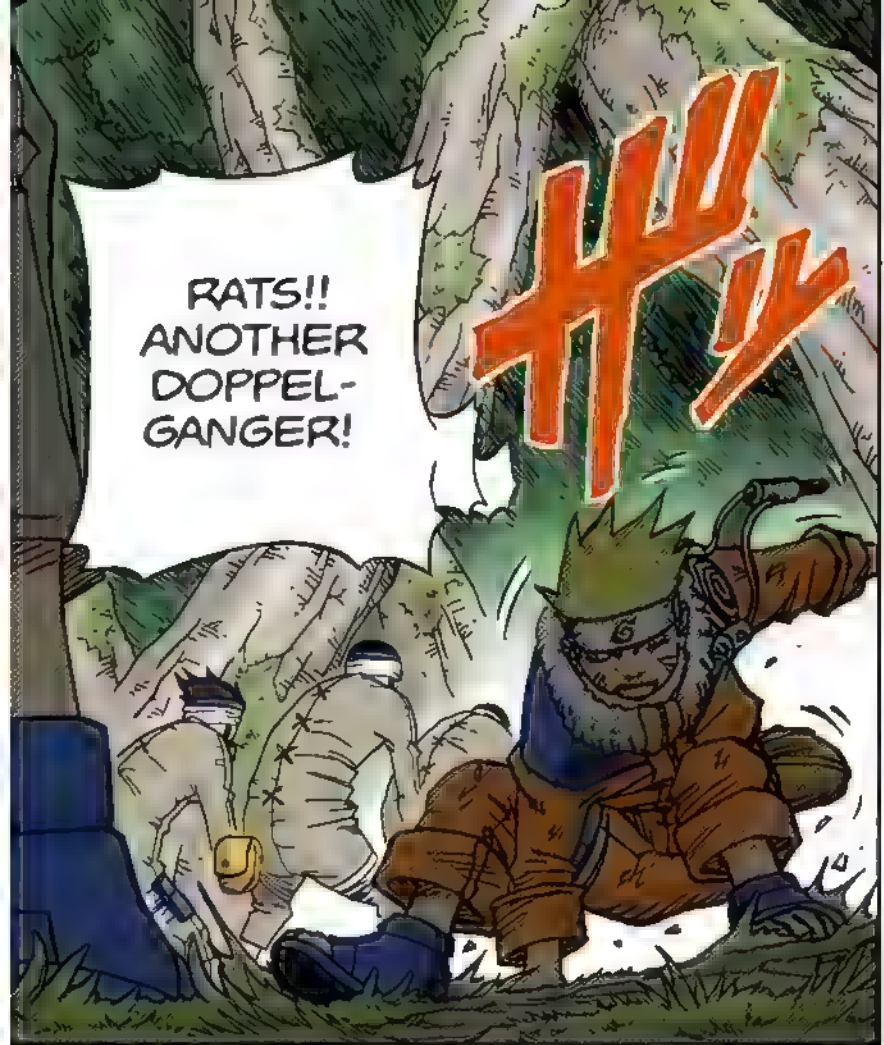


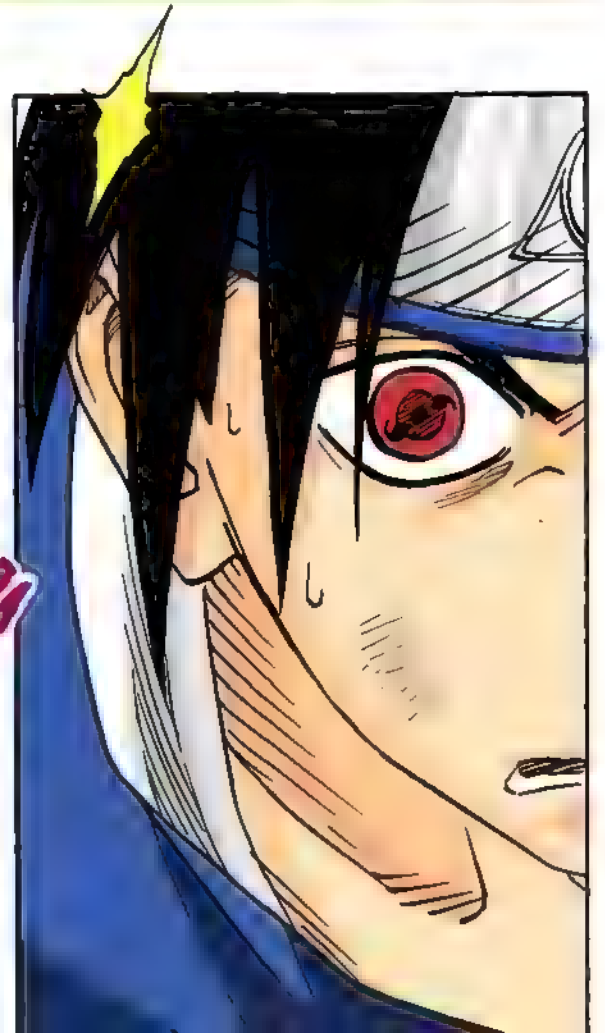
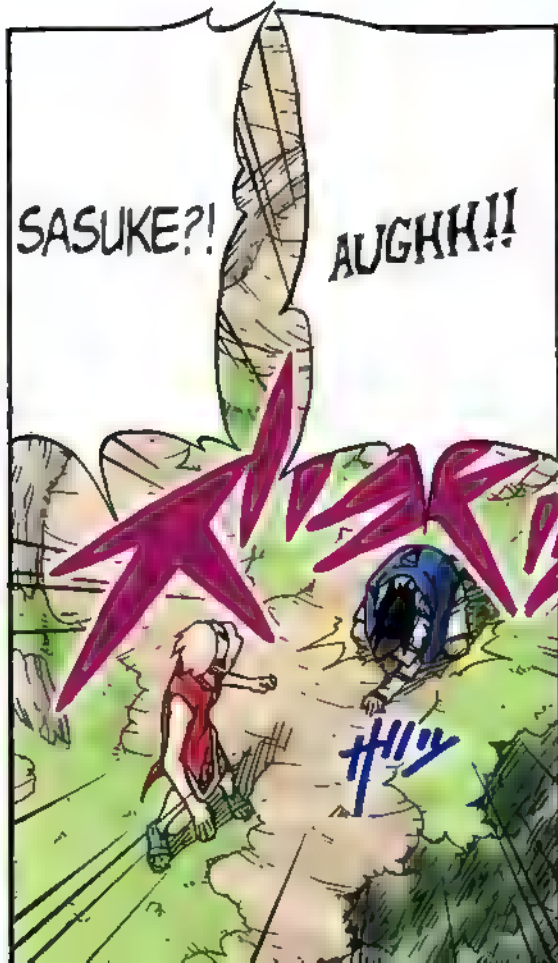
HOWEVER, THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE COMPLETELY OUT OF LUCK!

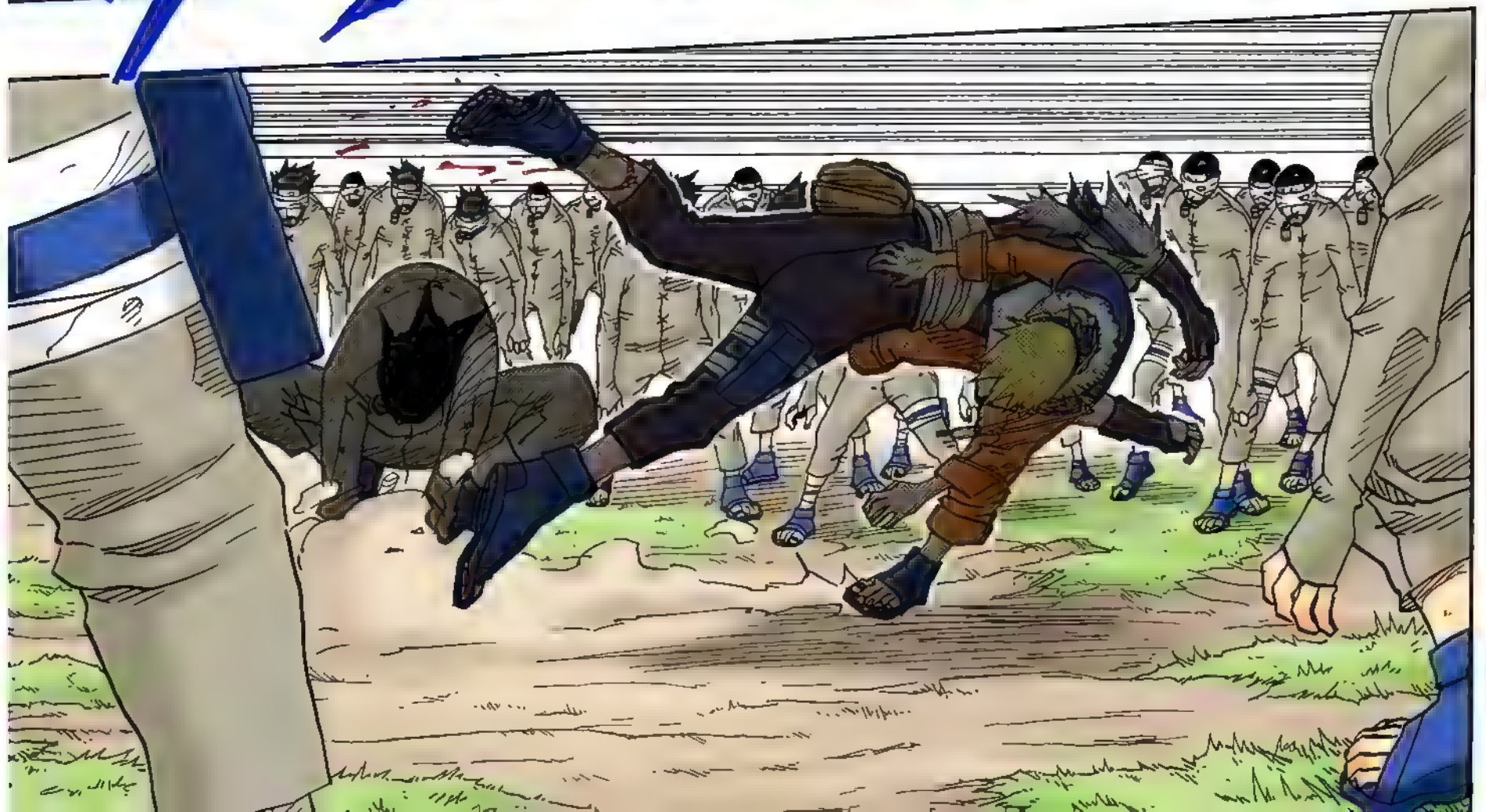
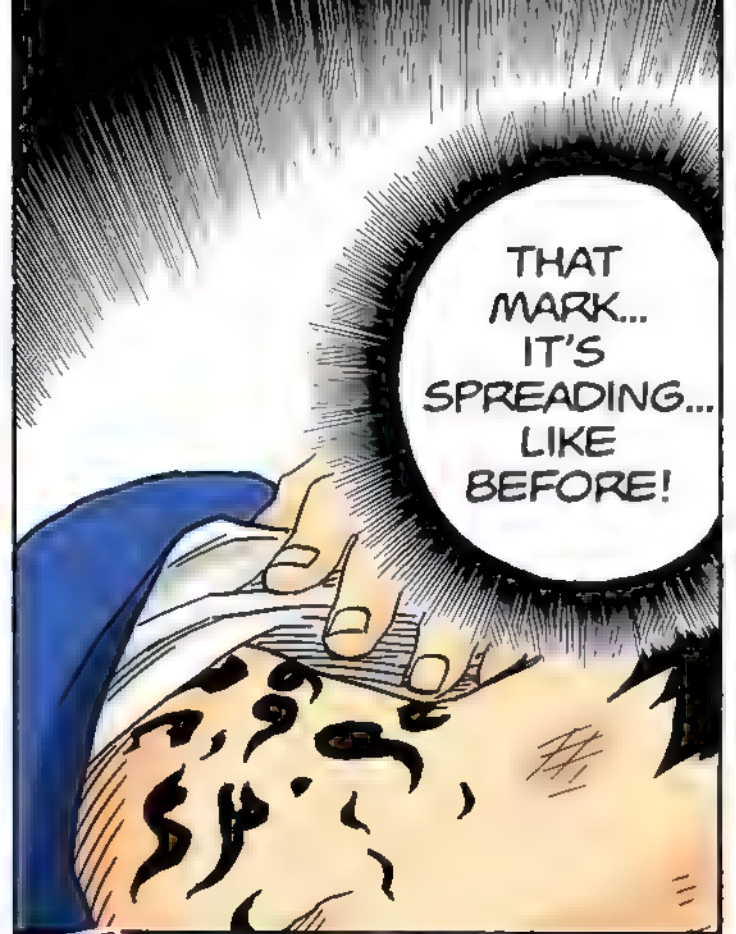
YOU DO HAVE SOME SKILL...













UHHN...



KABUTO...!



!!

DON'T
BOTHER,
NARUTO!



ALL
RIGHT,
YOU--!!

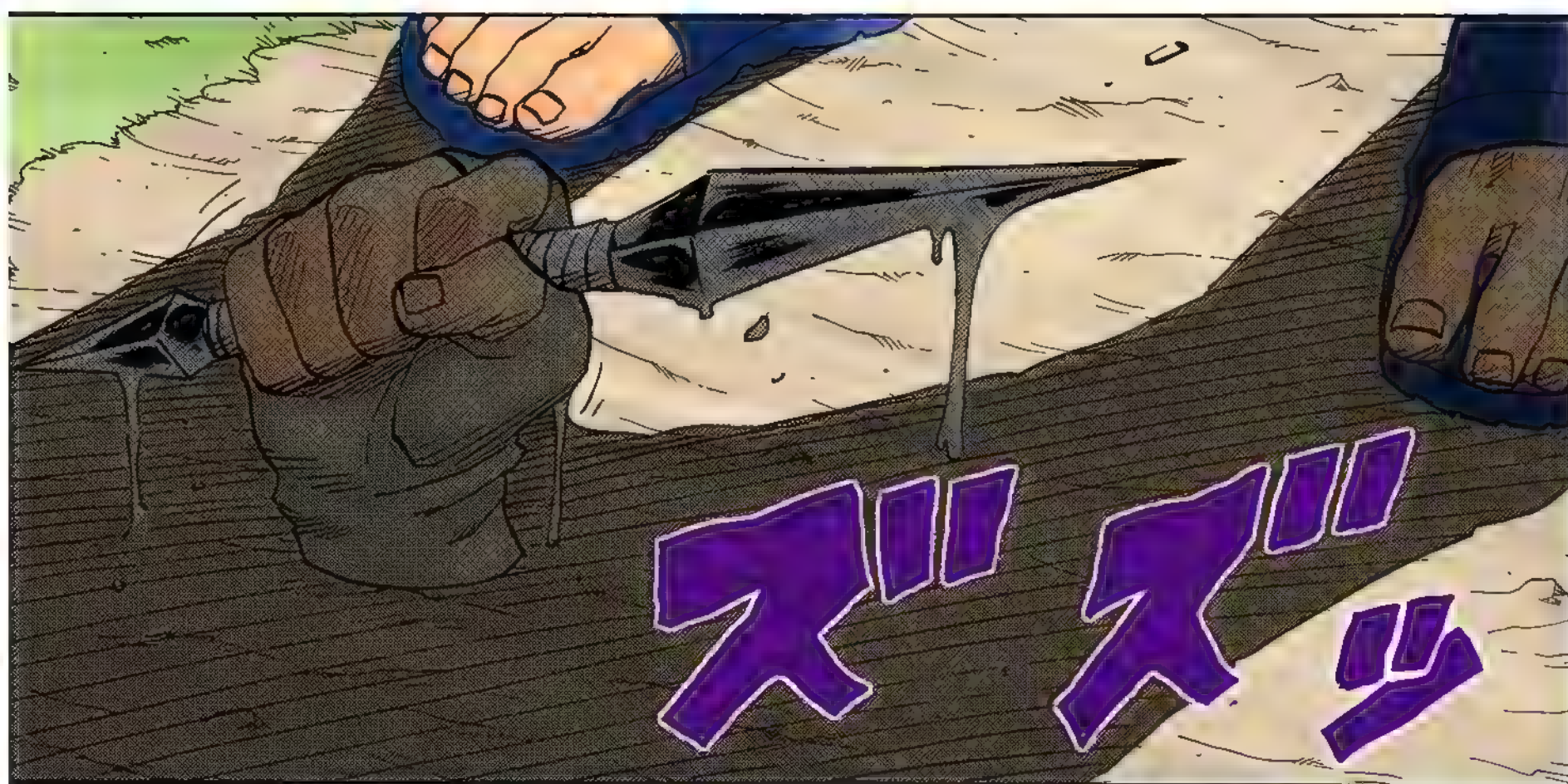
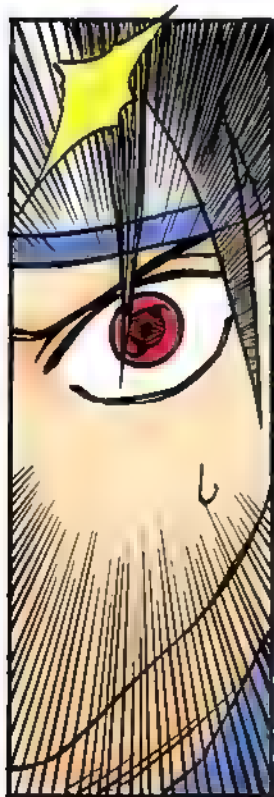
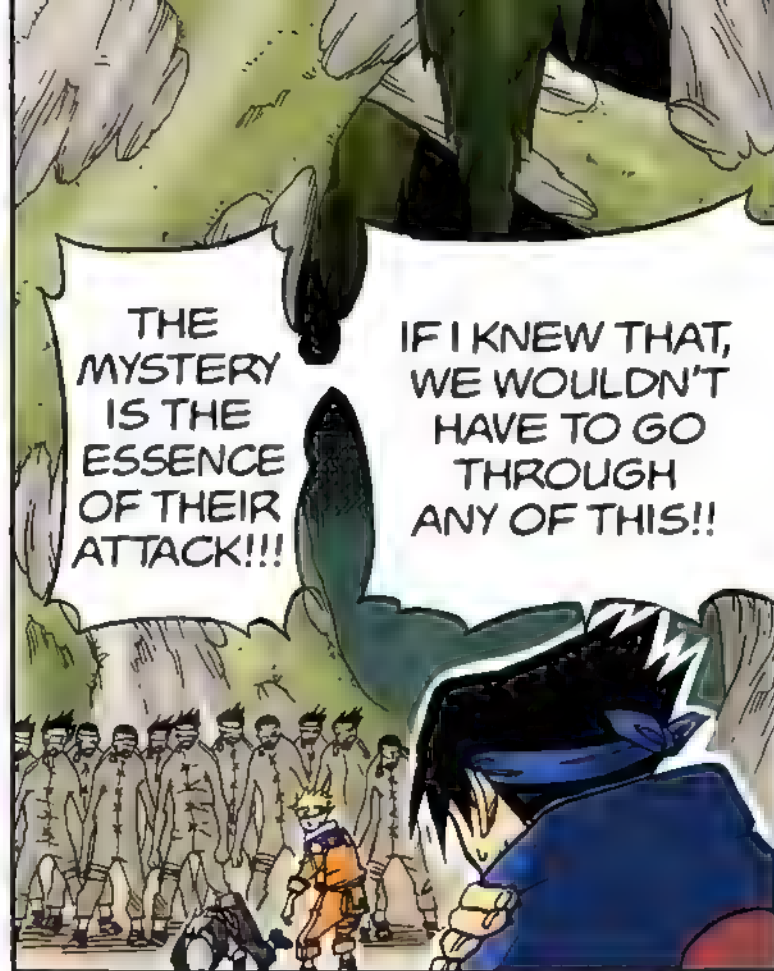
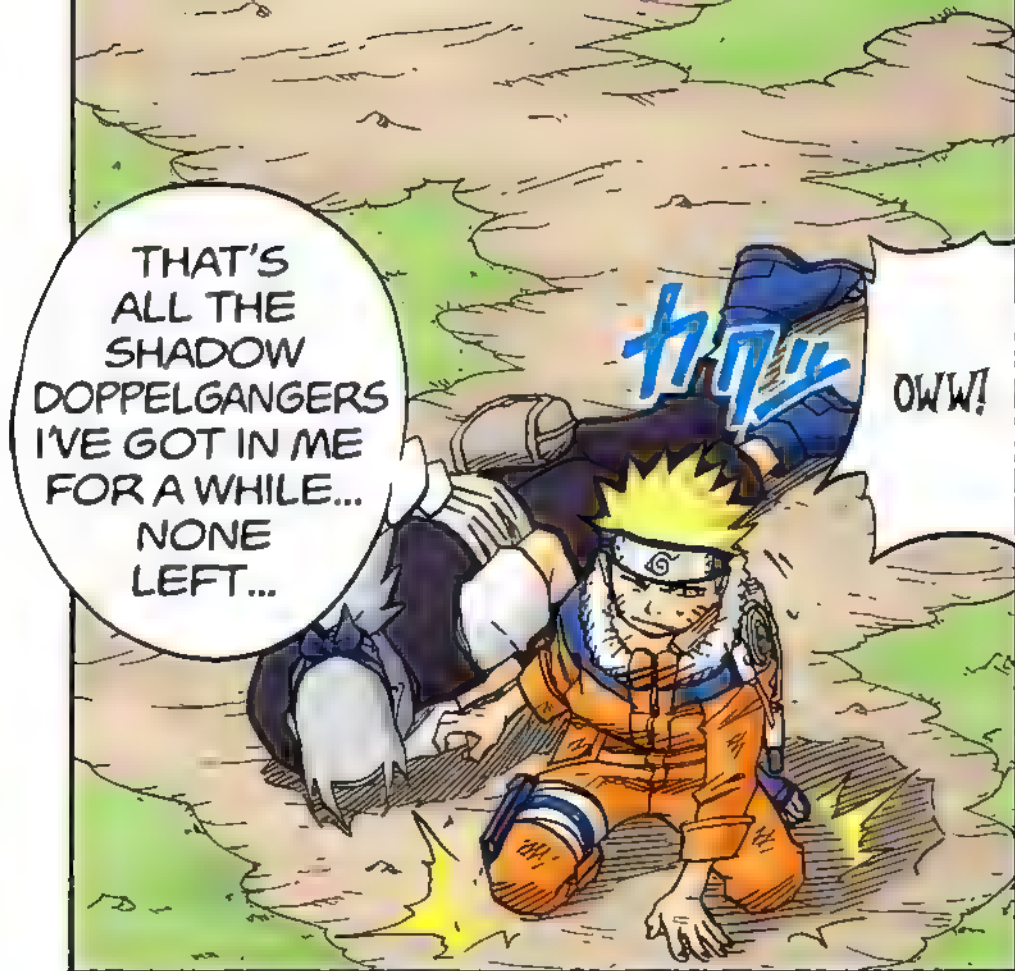


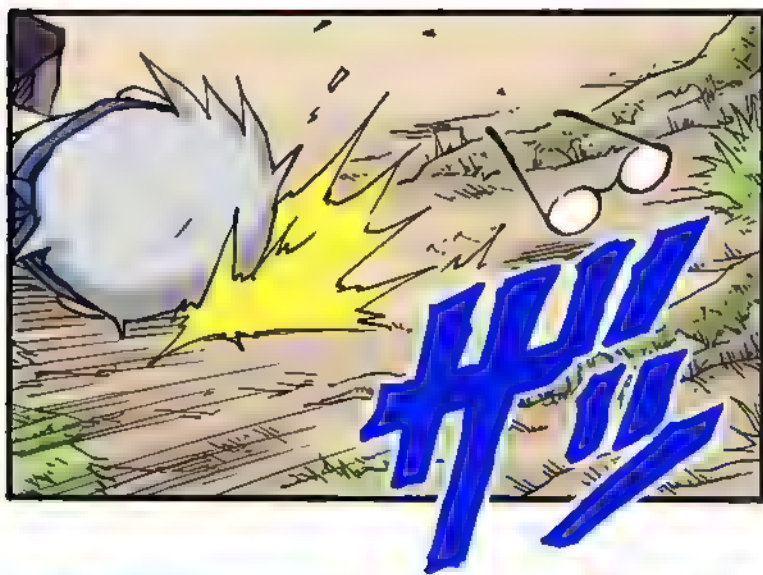
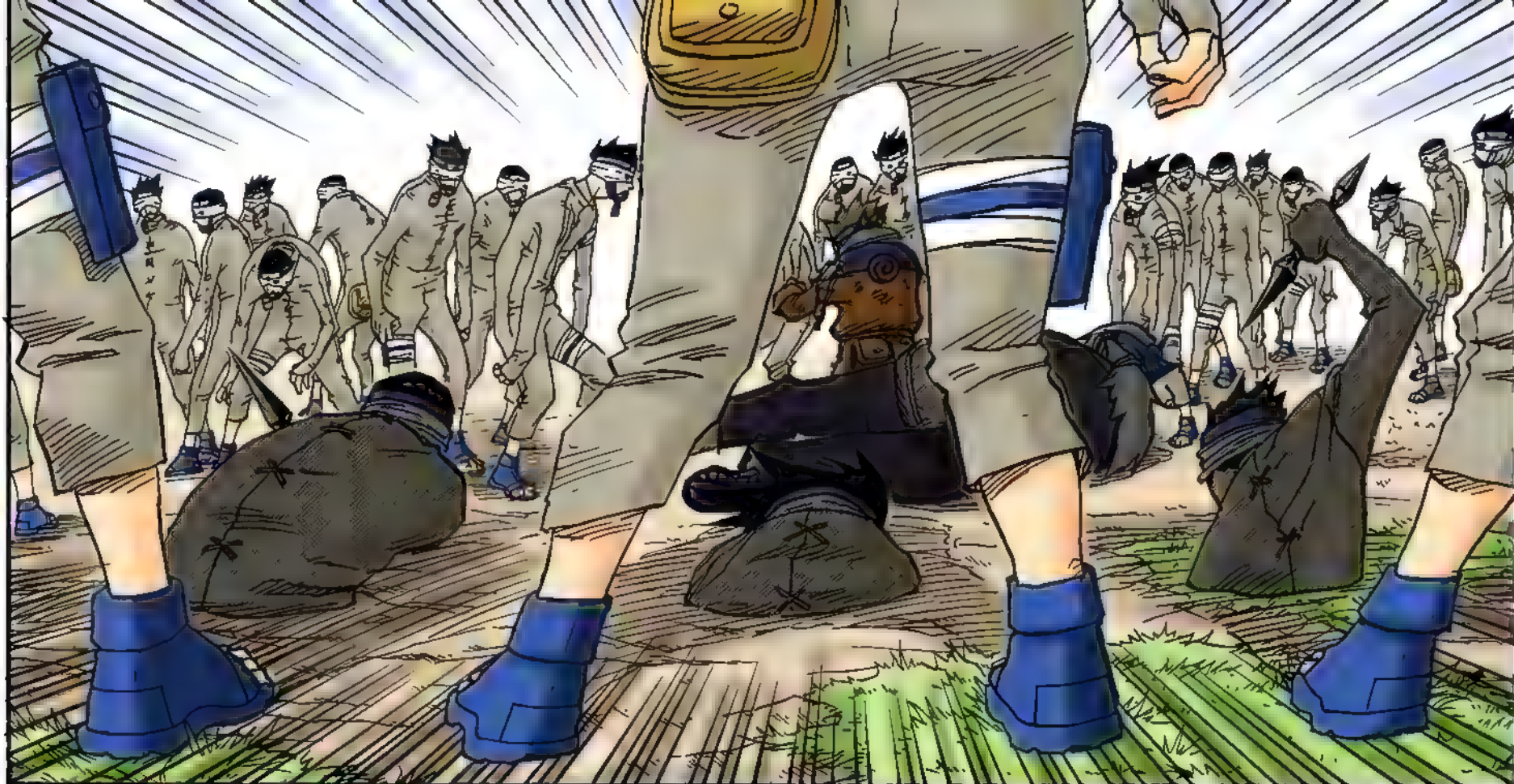
SO WHERE
ARE THE REAL
ATTACKS
COMING
FROM?!

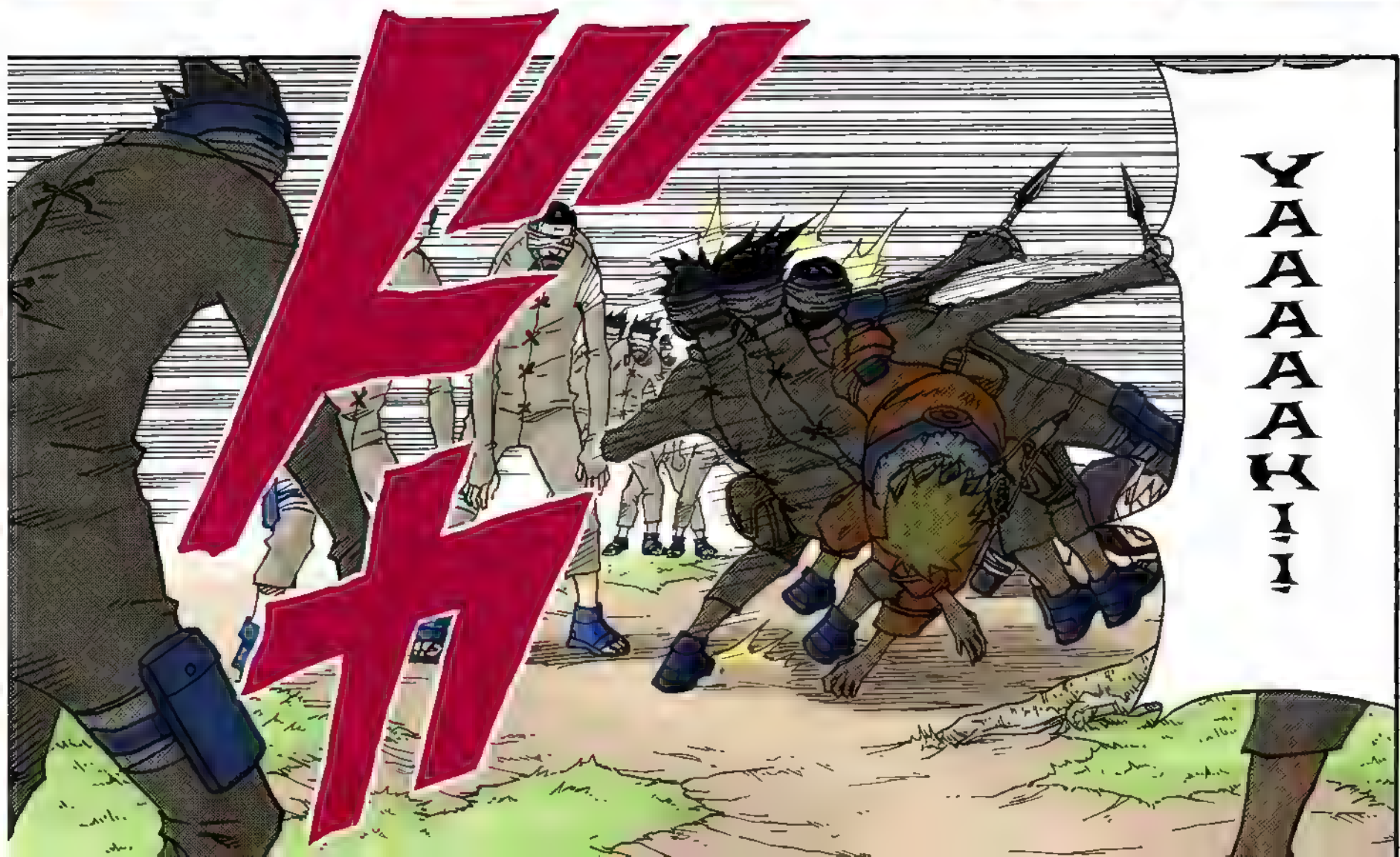
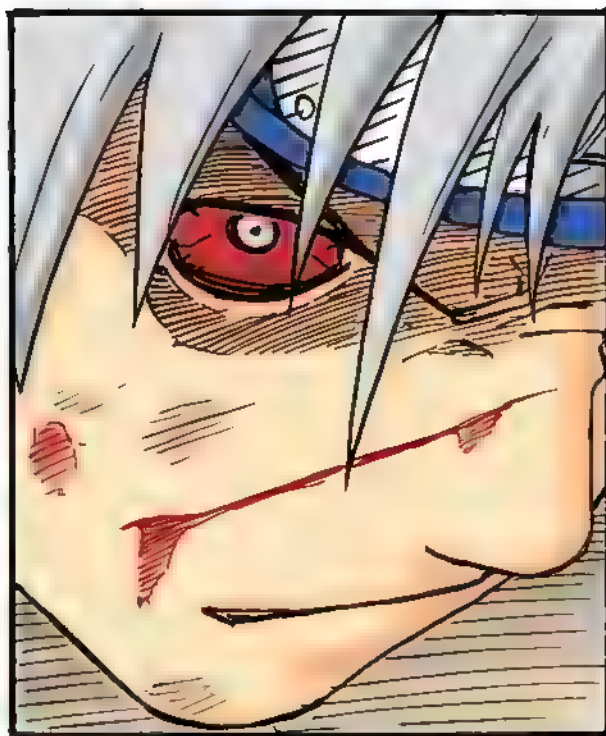
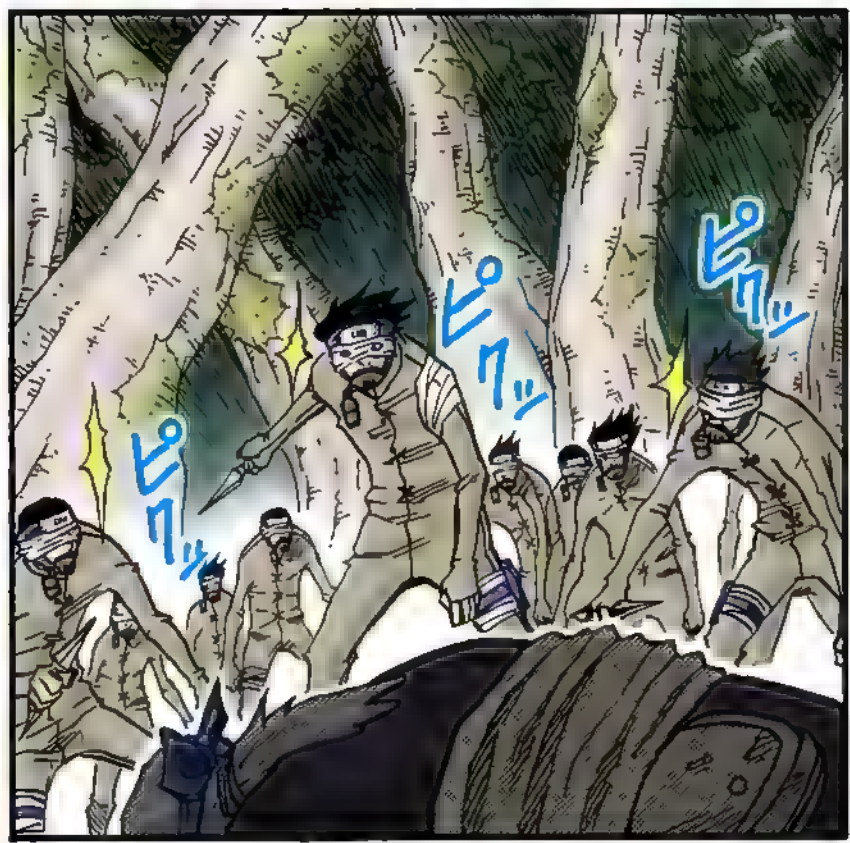
BUT
ILLUSIONS
CAN'T PUNCH
AND STAB,
YOU KNOW!

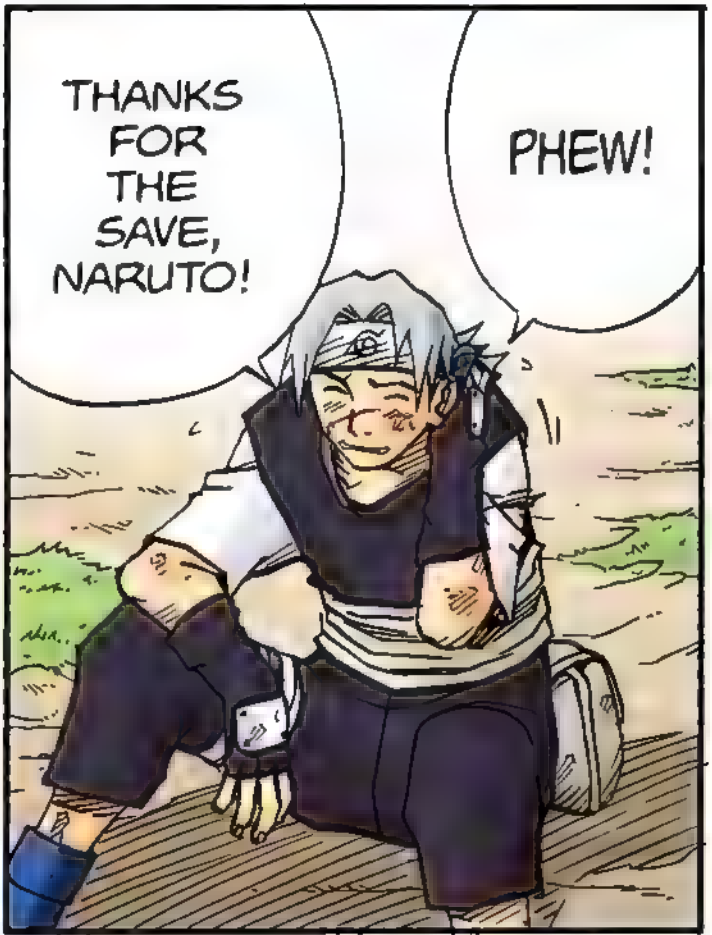
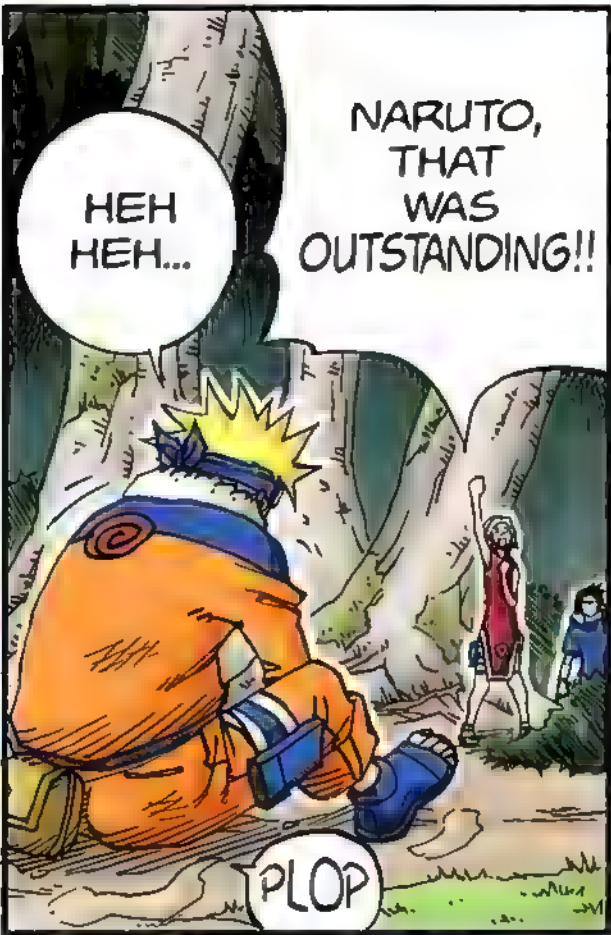


IT'S A
WASTE OF TIME.
THERE ARE NO
REAL BODIES
AMONG THEM
FOR YOU TO
HIT.









ARE YOU
WOUNDED?
THAT'S ONE
MONSTER
BRUISE!!



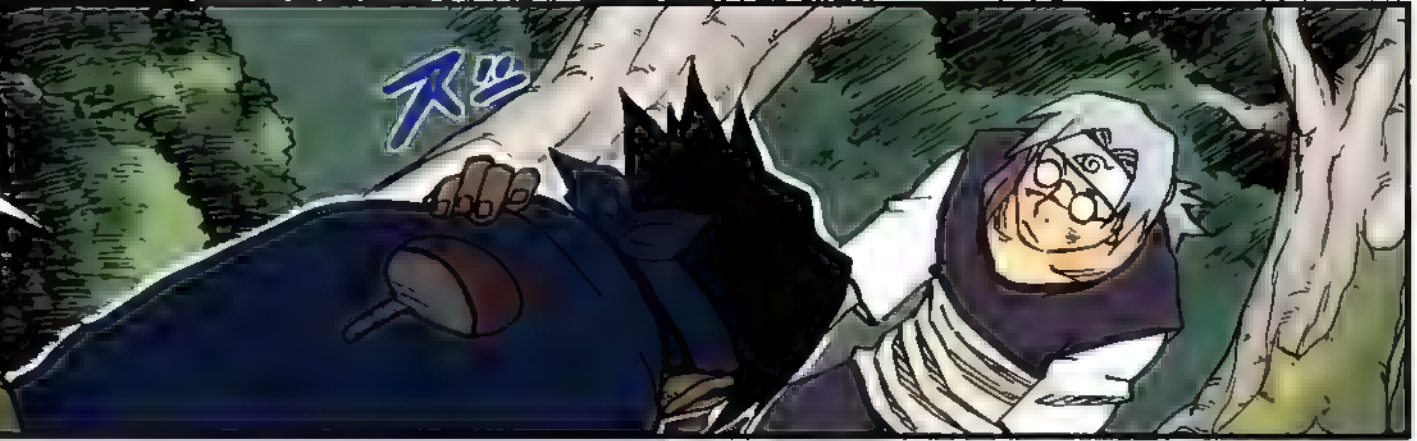
WHAT
HAPPENED...
TO
YOUR
NECK?!



!



...IT'S
NOTHING...



SOMETHING
ABOUT THIS
KABUTO JUST...
BUGS ME!

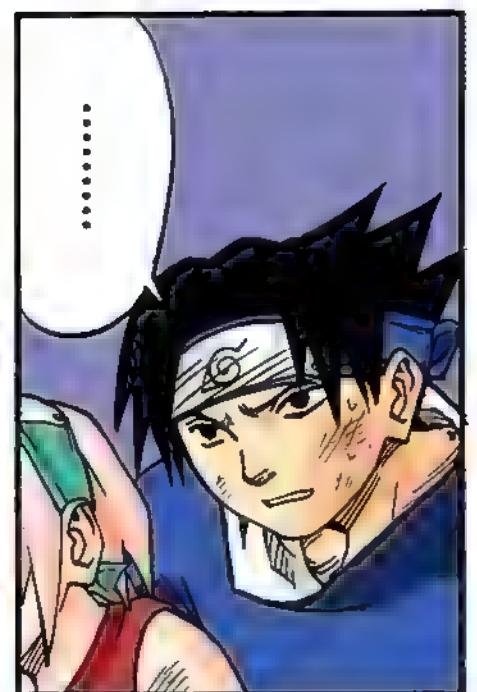
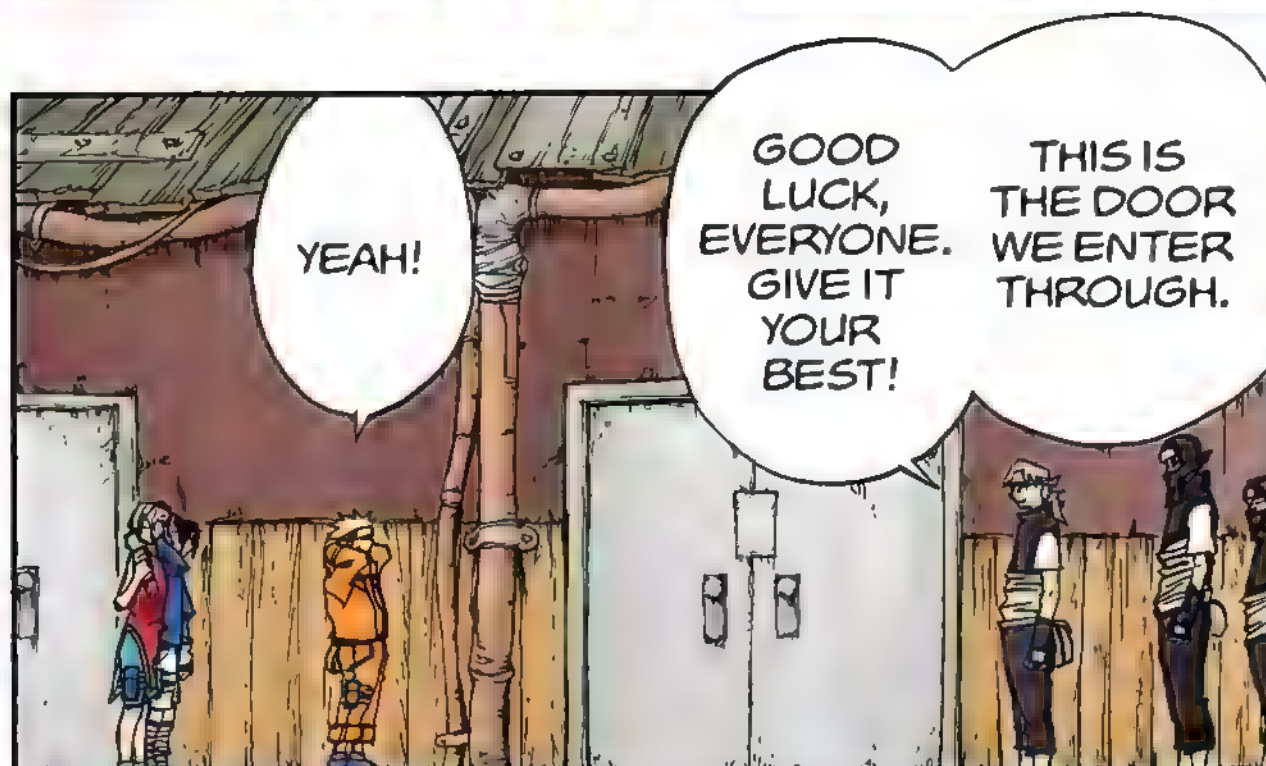
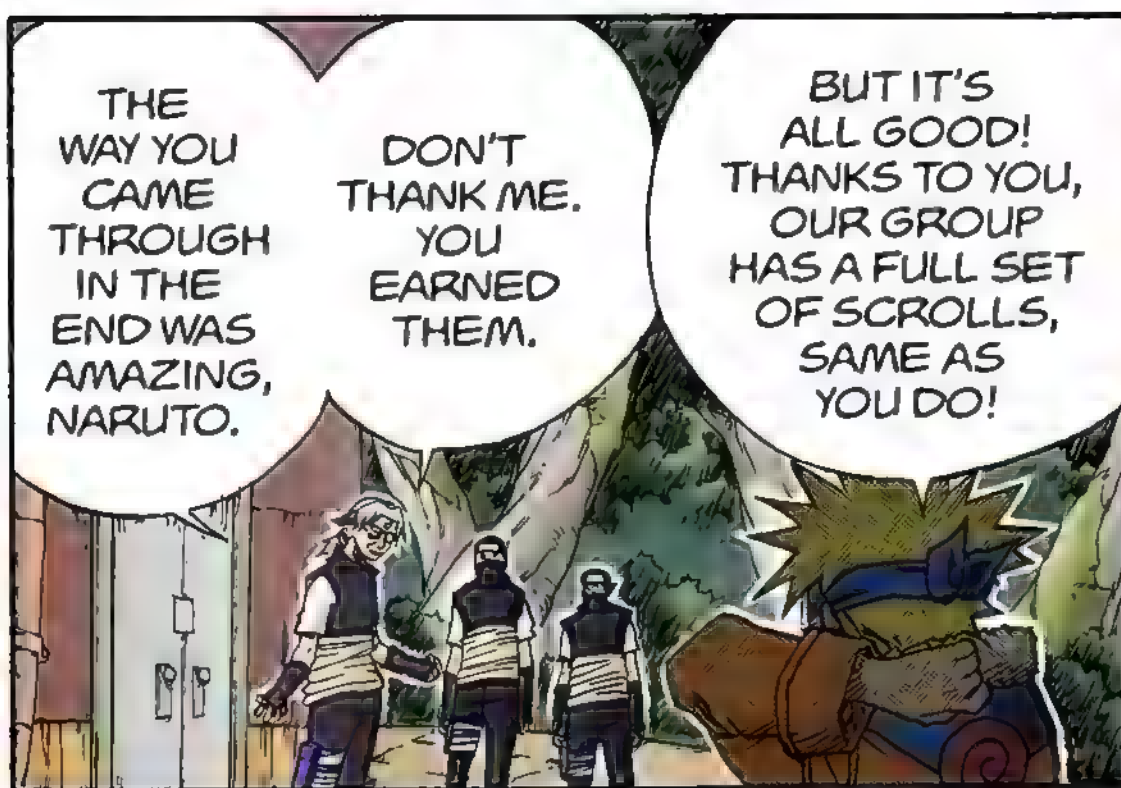
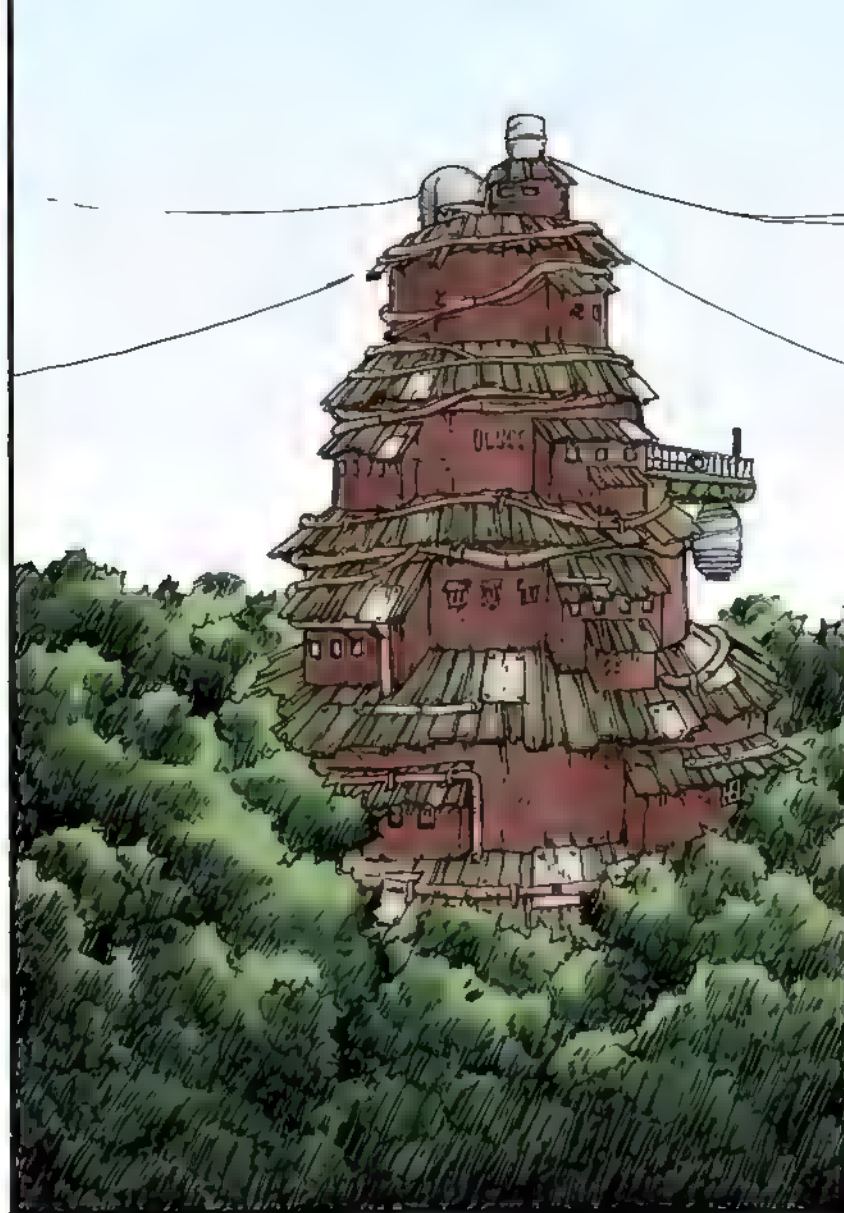


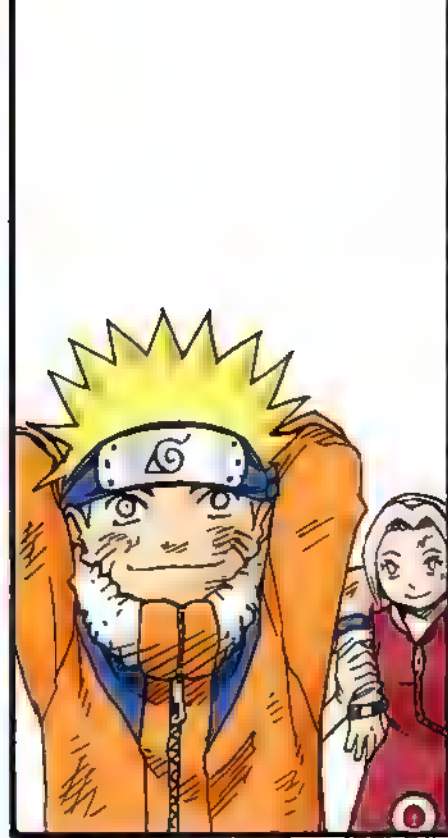
GOOD
WORK!

WE
GOT
US
A
HEAVEN
SCROLL!!

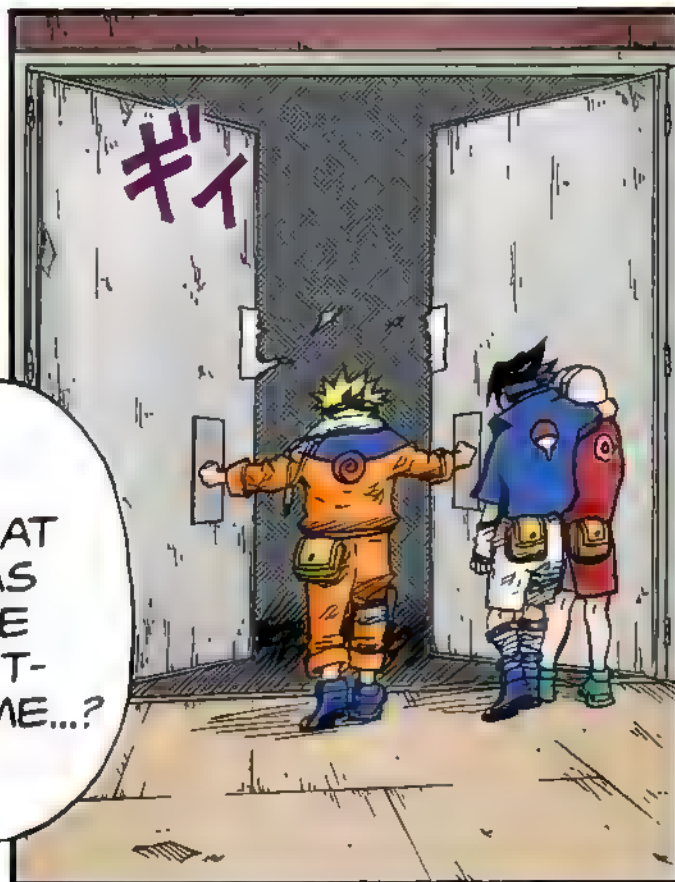
HEY!
OVER
HERE!







THE SEAL ON THE DOOR SAYS "OPEN." ↓



THE CHARACTER ON THE CARD SAYS "SHINOBI." ↓



HEH HEH...
IT ALMOST
SOUNDS
LIKE YOU'RE
A LITTLE BIT
WORRIED...

I
FIGURE
YOU'LL
NEED
THIS.

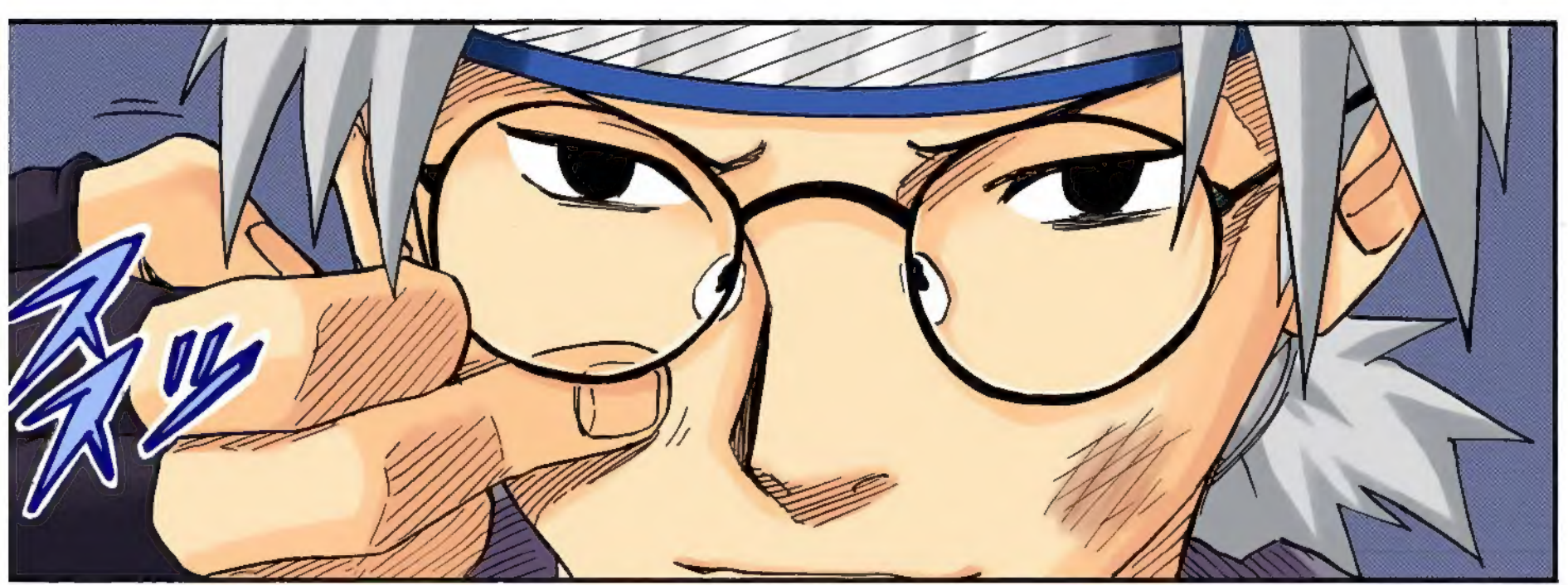
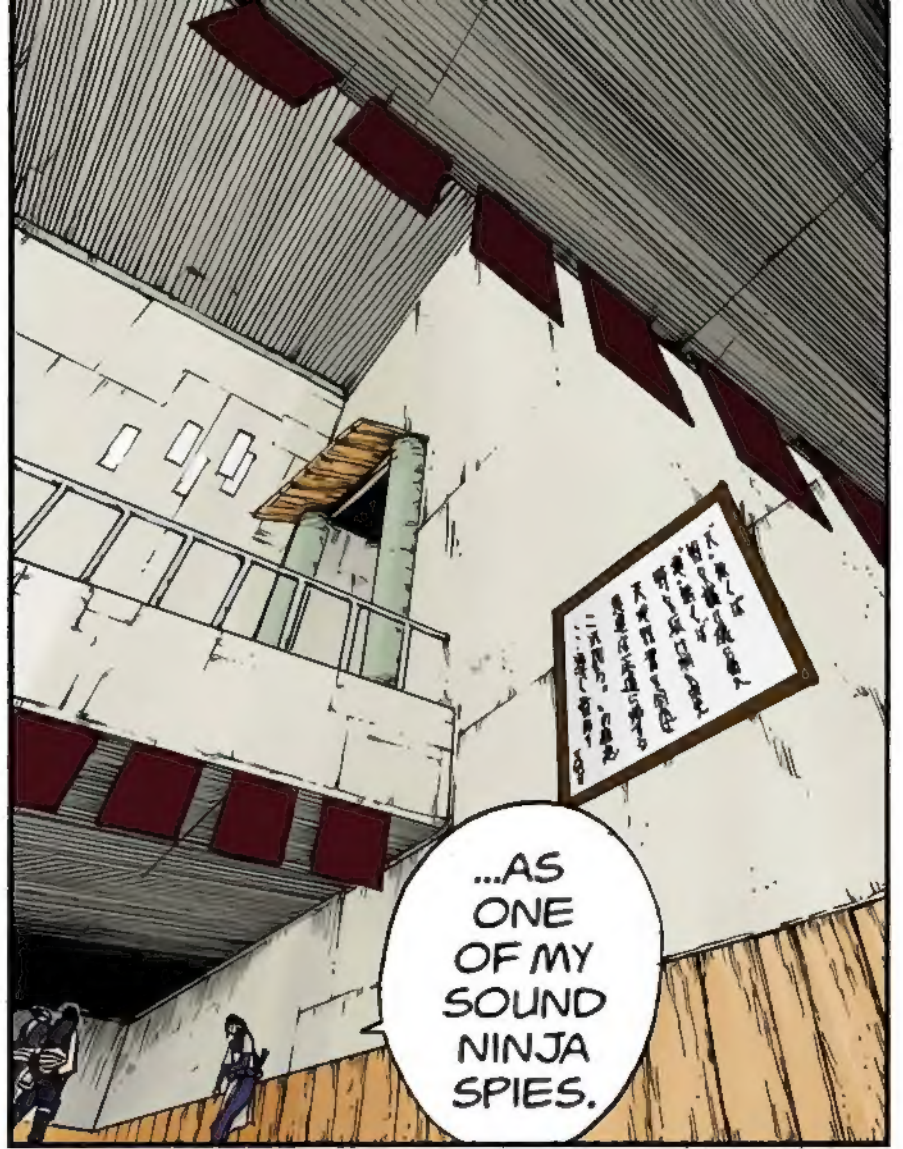
I'VE KEPT
A CAREFUL
RECORD OF
HIS PROGRESS
THROUGHOUT
THE SECOND
EXAM.

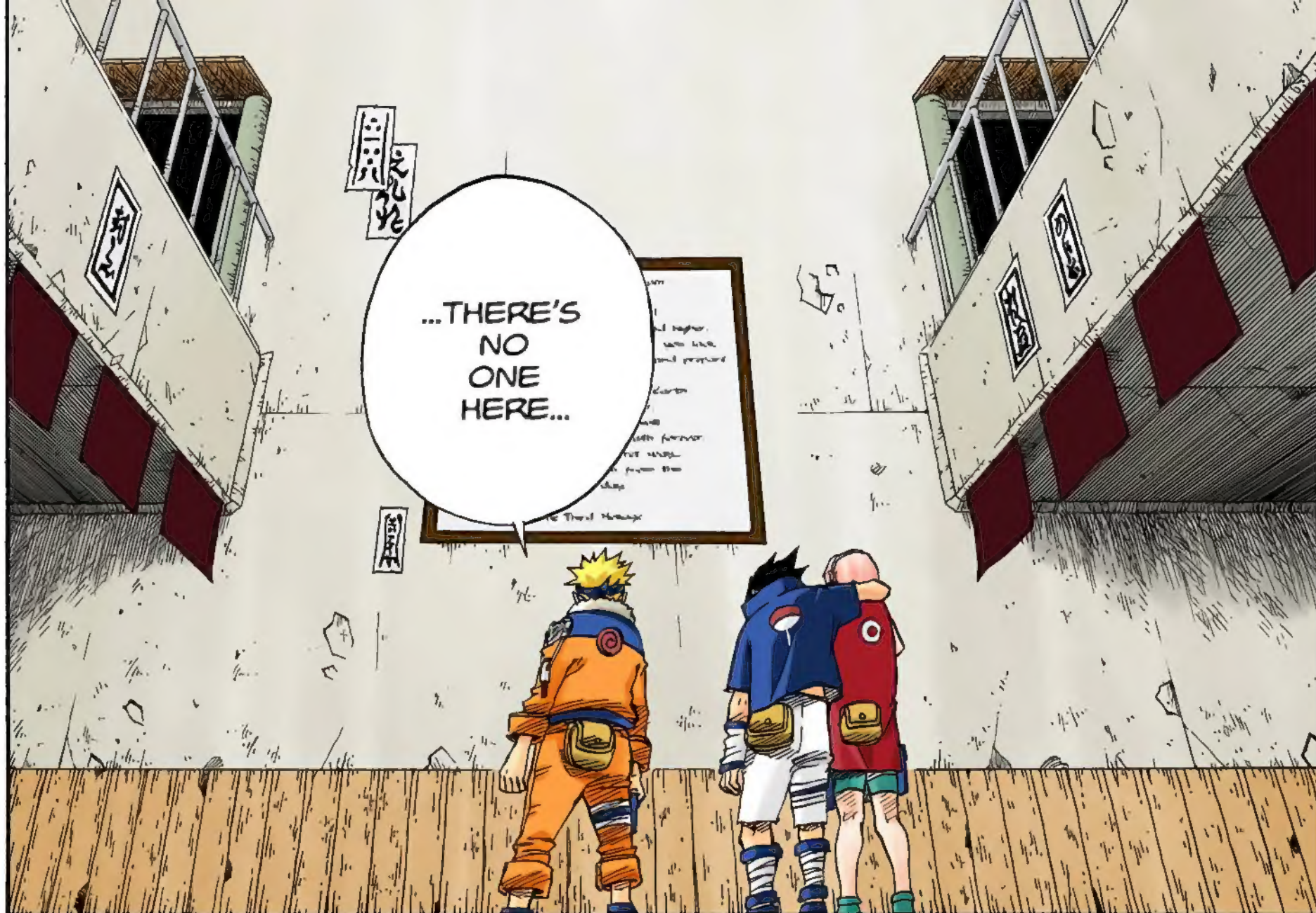
AND...
HOW
WAS
HE?



...LORD
OROCHIMARU.

NO...
I'M JUST
CURIOUS
TO HEAR
YOUR
OPINION...





INNER SAKURA

